



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

February 1, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 3168– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure and appreciates the extension of the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program until June 30, 2028. The Coordinator also supports two similar administrative bills - [SB3108](#) and [HB2140](#) – that provide an appropriation of \$15,000,000 and extend the existing program until June 30, 2026.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator defers to the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding section 4 of this bill, which provides that any funds unused by June 30, 2028 shall be transferred to DHS for purposes of establishing a permanent Ohana Zones program.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2028. The bill also appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent Ohana Zones program within DHS upon expiration of the pilot program.

In December 2021, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) – a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator – adopted policy priorities for the 2022

legislative session, including a specific focus on promoting affordable housing for people transitioning from homelessness through an extension of the Ohana Zones program. Since its establishment in 2018, the Ohana Zones pilot program supported 20 projects statewide. As of November 2021, the Ohana Zones pilot program aided 5,510 homeless individuals statewide, including 1,368 placed into permanent housing.

The [Ohana Zones pilot program](#) provided flexible funding for the State and counties to develop innovate programs reflecting the local needs of specific communities, including rural areas of Hawaii island and Oahu. Based on regional needs, Ohana Zones funding supported expansion of emergency shelter and navigation programs, as well as permanent housing projects for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. Examples of Ohana Zones include the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered \(HONU\)](#) program on Oahu, as well as permanent housing projects such as [Kamaoku Kauhale](#), [Huliau](#), [Kealaula at Pua Loke](#), [Kumuwai](#), and [Hale Maluhia](#). The flexibility of Ohana Zones also enabled the State and counties to rapidly adjust and expand shelter capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as demonstrated by the [Ka Lamaku](#) and [Hale Hanakahi](#) projects. The [HICH annual legislative report](#)<sup>1</sup> provides a detailed overview and evaluation of the Ohana Zones pilot program.

A key strength of the Ohana Zones pilot program are the contracts executed directly between the Coordinator's office and the four counties instead of with individual service providers. The direct contracts with the counties enable the counties to leverage county-level funding, land, and facilities to supplement Ohana Zones funding. For example, the Kumuwai and Hale Maluhia projects on Oahu leverage facilities owned by the City & County of Honolulu and purchased with City funds. Similarly, the Keolahou Assessment Center on Hawaii island leveraged land and facilities under the jurisdiction of Hawaii County. In addition, the HONU program leverages City park facilities to provide space for the program. The close partnership between State and counties to implement Ohana Zones acknowledges that addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility.

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<sup>1</sup> Report available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/HICH-Report-to-2022-Legislature-FINAL.pdf>

An extension of the Ohana Zones pilot program will provide additional resources to address increasing levels of homelessness and housing instability statewide. In January 2021, the Economic Roundtable released [a report](#) that projected the pandemic recession would increase chronic homelessness nationwide by 49% over the next four years.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, historical data for the statewide homeless Point in Time (PIT) count also indicates demand for homeless services is likely to increase in the wake of the current economic recession. Following the last significant downturn in 2009, the statewide PIT count increased 37% between 2009 and 2016. On a more hopeful note, statewide PIT count data also reflected stark decreases in homelessness between 2016 and 2020, indicating it is possible to reverse upward trends in homelessness with a concentrated focus and investment in housing-focused strategies, such as Ohana Zones.

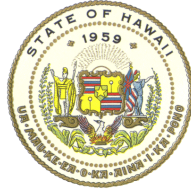
The HICH acknowledges Ohana Zones are just one piece of a more comprehensive effort to address homelessness, which includes reducing upfront barriers to accessing rental housing and expanding programs that assist key homeless sub-populations (e.g., unsheltered youth, adults with severe mental illness, etc.). For more information about the 2022 HICH policy priorities, visit: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/advocacy/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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<sup>2</sup> Report available at: <https://economicrt.org/publication/locked-out/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
HUMAN SERVICES  
and  
HOUSING**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference**

**SENATE BILL 3168  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Bill 3168 proposes to extend the pilot Ohana Zone Program another five years, provide funding to the Ohana Zones Program, and establish a permanent Ohana Zones Program within the Department of Human Services upon the expiration of the pilot program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Ohana Zone Program has been very successful in part because a variety of housing solutions have been created under its umbrella. The Department offers that in planning for the future success of this program, the same type of flexibility in finding solutions where none are apparent will be needed. For example, the Department is often called on to provide land for these projects, however, there are fewer and fewer suitable parcels as more Ohana Zone and low-income projects are developed. The existing program looked at creative re-use of existing buildings.

The Department notes that it may be more difficult to repeat the successes of the initial program, and therefore, the metrics of success may need to change over time. For example, are Ohana Zones starter housing for the homeless, and do they move out over time, as measured in years rather than months, or do they become generational low low-income housing? Robust and thoughtful data collection can help the state address the issues our lowest income residents in informed and thoughtful ways, provided the program is flexible enough to face the challenges of an ever-changing population.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.

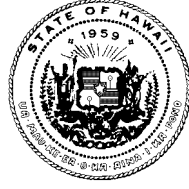
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 31, 2022

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3168 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

February 1, 2022, 1:00 pm  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this proposal which is similar to the administration proposal SB3108/HB2140 that extends the Ohana Zone pilot program. The administration proposal extends the pilot program for three years, not five, and requests an appropriation of \$15,000,000.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure is to extend the ohana zones pilot program to 06/30/2028. Appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program. Establishes a permanent ohana zones program within the Department of Human Services upon expiration of the pilot program.

The Ohana Zone pilot program has successfully supported innovative programs that address services gaps, especially for services where no federal programs or funds exist. The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness worked closely with Counties to maximize available use of both State and County resources to address emerging needs in response to COVID-19. Extending the pilot program and additional funds will continue the current pilot program

projects and will allow the current projects to gather more data and information about what works. Additional funds will also support the community's efforts to address youth and young adults' shelter and housing needs.

As to transitioning the pilot program to a permanent program within DHS, the Legislature will need to add administrative resources and general fund appropriations to the DHS base budget in the session before the end of the pilot program.

Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not supplant or reduce existing budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND HOUSING  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3168

**February 1, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Room 225 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 3168: 1) amends Act 209, SLH 2018, as amended by Act 128, SLH 2019, to extend the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program's (OZPP) sunset date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028, and extend the annual reporting requirements of the pilot program to the 2028 Legislative Session; 2) establishes a permanent 'Ohana Zones Program (OZP) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) after the sunset of OZPP; 3) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Office of the Governor (GOV) to fund the extended operations of OZPP through FY 28; 4) authorizes GOV to transfer OZPP funding to other expending agencies, as necessary, to implement OZPP; and 5) requires the transfer of any unspent amounts of the unspecified appropriation at the end of FY 28 to DHS to establish the permanent OZP.

B&F notes that the provision requiring unspent funds that are appropriated by this bill in FY 23 to be transferred to DHS at the end of FY 28 and expended by DHS

after FY 28 is in direct conflict with Section 11 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, which states that general fund appropriations shall be for specified periods; that no appropriation shall be made for a period exceeding three years; and that unencumbered appropriations or portions thereof shall lapse at the close of the fiscal period for which the appropriations were made.

B&F also notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.



The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

**Hearing: Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 1:00 pm; via videoconference**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support** of SB 3168, which extends and provides funding for the Ohana Zone pilot project, and establishes a permanent Ohana Zone program within the Department of Human Services at the expiration of the pilot program. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners In Care (PIC).

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports extending the Ohana Zone pilot program and providing additional funding, as well as making it permanent, as long as it does not impact funding for other ongoing proven homeless services. During the past 3 years, some Ohana Zone projects only needed one time funding to create housing. Others that provide ongoing services will need continued funding. Twenty projects were created that other federal funding could not address. These projects built on the strengths of the local communities that know their needs. The funding provided an opportunity to respond to these needs in new and creative ways. Working with the counties was an important part of this funding and should be continued.

The initial pilot program demonstrated that addressing the issue of homelessness on the local level through Ohana Zone funding was effective. Hundreds of beds were added to the homeless service network, including creative initiatives like tiny homes.

We urge your support to continue and expand the Ohana Zone program and the resources needed to fund them for the next 5 years.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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*Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.*

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services and the  
Senate Committee on Housing,

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 1:00pm via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 3168 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**. This measure will provide additional funding, extend the lifetime of the pilot project and establish a permanent ohana zones program.

Over the last 3 years, there have been several innovative programs created within the ohana zones throughout the islands. 20 programs were created that other federal funding is not able to address. These programs have added hundreds of beds to the homeless service system including emergency shelter, tiny homes and more, which is essential in addressing the issue of homelessness. We support the continuation of this program and the resources needed to fund them for the next 5 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testifying on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Aloha

**OPPORTUNITY  
YOUTH  
ACTION HUI**

1 February 2022

Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 3168, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha mai e Chairs San Buenaventura and Chang, Vice-Chairs Ihara and Kanuha, and members of the Committees:

We are writing in **support** of SB 3168, relating to homelessness. This bill extends the ohana zones pilot program to 06/30/2028. It appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent ohana zones program within the Department of Human Services upon expiration of the pilot program.

We are in support of the continuation of the ohana zones program and believe that it is serving its intended purpose to provide critical services to the State's homeless population. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is especially concerned about homelessness among youth, with research showing that youth aged 12–17 are at higher risk than adults of becoming homeless. According to a recent report, transition-aged youth between 18 and 24 years are one of the fastest growing homeless populations. Homeless youth often do not receive adequate services. They may not meet shelter admission policies, and, at times, there is a lack of bed space for youth. Although homeless young adults can use shelter services, services may not always be a good fit for the needs of the transitioning population. This bill is an important step among many that need to be taken to address homelessness in our community. We ask that you support it.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth, promoting equity in the justice system, and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 3168.**

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, & Human Services Committee Members  
Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, & Housing Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022 (1:00 PM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 3168, which (1) extends the ohana zones pilot program to 06/30/2028; (2) appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program; and (3) establishes a permanent ohana zones program within the Department of Human Services upon expiration of the pilot program.

Ohana zones have been useful mechanism to address unsheltered homelessness in recent years. HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# HAWAI' APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice**  
**Supporting SB3168**– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS, 'OHANA ZONES  
Joint Committee on Human Services and Committee on Housing  
Tues. Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 1PM

**LATE**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and fellow committee members,

Appleseed is submitting testimony **in support of SB3168 as well as offering comments**. We are in support of increasing and stabilizing 'Ohana Zones Funding as the stated objective to “provide critical services to the state's homeless population”.

The lack of permanent shelter or housing for our houseless population makes them more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19; unable to isolate, seek consistent treatment, and furthermore have been criminalized and displaced by “sweeps” conducted by counties across the state. A 2021 Civil Beat article cites that as of 2020 there were 7,000 unsheltered individuals and as of September of last year Ohana Zone funding has served over 5,000 since the establishment of the pilot program, including transitioning 1,100 to permanent housing<sup>1</sup>.

However, we also **offer amendments** to strengthen the 'Ohana zone program and ensure that funds are used in ways that support the dignity and respect of our unsheltered population. We propose the following additions:

- 1) Incorporate the exemptions to county and state regulations as proposed in **SB3018 and HB1796**. This will ensure that all of the exemptions currently included in governor's emergency proclamations can continue regardless of COVID-19 measures.
- 2) The establishment of a **community advisory committee** to advise and assist the program which includes people with lived experience of homelessness.

This will help ensure that program funds are directed towards projects that are strongly supported by the houseless community instead of more authoritarian approaches which do not emphasize personal agency or a sense of shared community. An example of this is Honolulu's HONU program, which is led by law enforcement instead of service providers and has a maximum 90 day stay, which does not aid in creating community or accessing more permanent housing solutions.

Use of Ohana Zone funding for police departments for “diversion programs” takes away money that could be spent directly on more supportive services at the hands of professional providers and housing solutions. Although the mission of HONU is stated as providing a “critical tool for law enforcement officers to divert homeless individuals from

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/11/should-a-pilot-program-to-expand-homeless-services-in-hawaii-be-extended/>



# HAWAI' APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice**  
**Supporting SB3168**– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS, 'OHANA ZONES  
Joint Committee on Human Services and Committee on Housing  
Tues. Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 1PM

citation and arrest”<sup>2</sup> about 25% of HPD’s (the lead of HONU) citations in 2020 were targeted at unsheltered people, some receiving over 20 violations and one man receiving almost 100–two in a span of 19 minutes<sup>3</sup>, further criminalizing and interrupting the lives of the unsheltered. **Diversion programs should be spearheaded by service providers and professionals who are trained in social work and outreach care.**

- 3) Any other amendments which can ensure that the voice of our houseless community has meaningful participation in determining how Ohana zone funds are spent.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/homeless-outreach-and-navigation-for-unsheltered-persons-honu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/11/easy-targets-some-oahu-homeless-have-been-ticketed-dozens-of-times-during-the-pandemic/>

Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022 at 1PM  
Joint Committee on Human Services & Committee on Housing  
Submitted by [Planning for Community LLC](#)

**LATE**

SB3168 - Relating to Homelessness, 'Ohana Zones

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and fellow committee members,

**Planning for Community is submitting testimony in support of SB3168 and providing comments.** The lack of permanent shelter or housing for our houseless population makes them more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19; unable to isolate, seek consistent treatment, and furthermore have been criminalized and displaced by "sweeps" conducted by counties across the state. A 2021 Civil Beat article cites that as of 2020 there were 7,000 unsheltered individuals and as of September of last year 'Ohana Zone funding has served over 5,000 since the establishment of the pilot program.

However, we will also **offer input** to strengthen the 'Ohana Zone program and ensure that funds are used in ways that support the dignity and respect of our unsheltered population. We propose the following amendments:

- 1) Incorporate the exemptions to county and state regulations as proposed in **SB3018 and HB1796**. This will ensure that all the exemptions currently included in governor's emergency proclamations can continue regardless of COVID-19 measures.
- 2) The establishment of a **community advisory committee** to advise and assist the program which includes people with lived experience of homelessness.

This will help ensure that program funds are directed towards projects that are strongly supported by the houseless community instead of more authoritarian approaches. An example of this is Honolulu's HONU program, which is led by law enforcement instead of service providers and only has a maximum 90 day stay.

Use of 'Ohana Zone funding for police departments for "diversion programs" takes away money that could be spent directly on support services and housing solutions. Although the mission of HONU is stated as providing a "critical tool for law enforcement officers to divert homeless individuals from citation and arrest" about 25% of HPD's (the lead of HONU) citations in 2020 were targeted at unsheltered people, some receiving over 20 violations, further criminalizing and interrupting the lives of the unsheltered. Diversion programs should be spearheaded by service providers and professionals who are trained in social work and outreach.

- 3) Any other amendments which can ensure that the **voice of our houseless community has meaningful participation** in determining how 'Ohana Zone funds are spent.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

*Abbey Seitz*  
Planning for Community  
Owner and Manager



**SB-3168**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:08:16 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in support.

**LATE**

**SB-3168**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:35:25 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Arjuna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ohana Zone funding has been key in creating housing first units and supportive services for our unhoused folks, at last PIT there were about 7,000 unhoused people in Hawaii and according to an evaluation conducted of the Ohana Zone pilot program they have been able to directly house over 1,000. These services should be strengthened and state should make Ohana Zone funding permanent and continue to serve our unhoused community and provide direct services from social service providers.