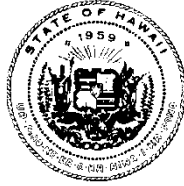


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

10:00 AM, April 6, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 211

In consideration of
HB 1397, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1397, HD1, SD1, relating to supportive housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of HB 1397, HD1, SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

The HPHA believes in increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs and hopes to assist in this supportive housing pilot program. The HPHA stands ready and looks forward to assisting the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be part of the overall solution needed to address all housing related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its testimony regarding HB 1397, HD1, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
APRIL 6, 2023, 10:00 AM

HOUSE BILL 1397, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1397 HD1, SD1.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill, however, objects to the procurement exemption for the selection of a qualified non-profit organization. While the SPO believes there is a compelling purpose for supportive housing, there is no compelling reason to grant exemptions from chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The SPO testifies that the selection of a qualified non-profit organization should be in accordance with chapters 103D and 103F HRS to ensure fair, open competition and to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts.

Exemptions to the Procurement Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning, or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

The SPO recommends the following changes below.

Page 5, SECTION 2, lines 11 to 17 set forth below.

“The Hawaii public housing authority shall comply with ~~be exempt from~~ chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the rent supplement payments and may, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the supportive housing pilot program.”

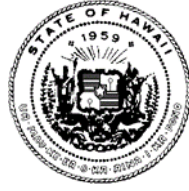
Page 6, lines 9 to 15 set forth below.

“The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall comply with ~~be exempt from~~ chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the supportive services payments and may, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the supportive housing pilot program.”

Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1397 HD1 SD1](#) – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Hearing: Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, suggests an extended effective date to facilitate planning, and defers to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and the Department of Health. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget and Governor's Messages.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The bill appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the \$500 monthly project-based rent supplemental payments to project owners are for units that are rented to eligible residents participating in the Supportive Housing Pilot program to assist the project owners maintaining rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below third percent of the area median income;

- (2) Clarifying that the SOHHS shall administer payments for supportive services under the Supportive Housing Pilot Program;
- (3) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The SD1 further amended the measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have capped project-based rent supplement payments at \$500 per month to grant HPHA more flexibility regarding the project-based rent supplement payments;
- (2) Including employment services as a supportive services to be provided to residents participating in the pilot program;
- (3) Clarifying that supportive services funding shall be not more than \$800 per unit per month;
- (4) Exempting the SOHHS from chapter 103F, HRS, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer supportive services payments under the pilot program;
- (5) Extending the deadlines for the joint interim report and joint final report to the Legislature of the findings and recommendations relating to the Supportive Housing Pilot Program by one year;
- (6) Inserting appropriation amounts of:
 - A. \$50,000,000 for supportive housing projects or supporting housing units in rental projects targeted for certain special needs individuals and families for the establishment of one full-time equivalent Permanent Housing Finance Specialist I position;
 - B. \$14,000,000 for contracts with new supportive housing rental projects or supportive housing rental units in rental projects for project-based rent supplement payments for the Pilot Program and for the establishment of full-time equivalent Permanent Public Housing Specialist position;
 - C. \$10,500,000 for the provision of supportive services for qualified individuals and families in new supportive housing projects and the establishment of one full-time equivalent permanent position; and
 - D. \$500,000 for the development of a supportive housing information system.
- (7) Updating section 1 to reflect its amended purpose and further specifying the compelling and public purposes for granting certain exemptions from the State Procurement Code;
- (8) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050 to encourage further discussion; and
- (9) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Department agrees that there is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the demand. While a one-time appropriation can support upfront housing construction, sustained

funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and supportive services for clients served by the pilot program to maintain housing over time.

The bill proposes that supportive services funding for the pilot be matched with federal Medicaid funds. The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is piloting the Community Integration Services (CIS) program, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. However, participation in CIS is limited to households currently enrolled in a QUEST, and the CIS program cannot use Medicaid funds to pay for rent. If this measure proceeds, DHS will continue discussing with the SOHHS and other stakeholders how the CIS program could support households participating in the proposed supportive housing pilot.

In addition, as drafted, this measure intends to serve “individuals with special needs,” a broader population than the State’s Housing First program that serves “chronically homeless” individuals and families. The measure contemplates a supportive housing strategy that combines housing and supportive services for a wide range of households with acute needs and is not limited to those experiencing homelessness.

For example, supportive housing programs may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and older adults. However, CIS does not explicitly serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), and older adults. Unfortunately, the presence of domestic violence alone would not qualify a person for CIS; however, if a survivor of domestic violence had medical or behavioral health needs and was eligible for Medicaid, they would qualify. DHS defers to the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division for services available for the I/DD population. Regarding older adults, if older adults met the Level of Care for Activities of Daily Living, were at risk of institutionalization (e.g., Nursing facility), and are eligible for Medicaid, then yes, they would qualify for CIS.

DHS notes the difference between supportive housing, as described in this measure, and the Housing First program, the permanent supportive housing (PSH) program currently administered by the DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO). The Housing First program specifically serves “chronically homeless” individuals and families as required by section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The State’s Housing First program is very successful, with a

retention rate of 94%, reflecting the percentage of participating chronically homeless individuals and families who remained in their permanent housing placement with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

Developing a broader supportive housing program to serve individuals with special needs will require additional recurring general funds and time to plan amongst agencies, communities, and stakeholders; therefore, DHS respectfully suggests an extended effective date.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 587-0620
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

April 06, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
H.B. 1397 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

HHFDC agrees that supportive housing is an innovative solution to house special needs populations, which include the chronically homeless, individuals with disabilities, those transitioning from incarceration, and those suffering from substance abuse. HHFDC also understands that supportive housing has been proven to significantly reduce costs and use of our public systems as well as strengthen and enhance our local communities.

HHFDC supports H.B. 1397 HD1 SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) and facilitates coordination and cooperation among state housing agencies to assist SOHHS with implementation. The pilot program contemplates the development of rental housing project(s) in which some or all of the units are targeted to special needs households who require supportive services and have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income. This measure covers the critical components for a supportive housing project to succeed – a one-time appropriation for the development and construction of the supportive housing project and funding streams to cover the other annual costs associated with this type of facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1397 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1397 HD1 SD1**, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

Supportive housing will massively benefit members of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability community (I/DD), which is disproportionately houseless. An increase in housing that is accessible to vulnerable special needs populations can be essential to ensuring those with I/DD are able to live safely and independently.

The support systems included in this pilot program also increase long-term benefits for populations in need of housing. Specifically, we would like to highlight the inclusion of employment services (page 5, line 20) and the responsibility to, when possible, maximize the possibility of employment (page 6, lines 1-2). Under Hawai'i's Employment First commitment, the importance of I/DD individuals being able to work is highlighted. Finding employment can increase I/DD independence and integration into the community, benefitting both the individuals and strengthening the community as a whole.

This pilot program will ensure that our community is supported with accessible decent housing, increasing their quality of life, encouraging independence, and promoting community participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1397 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

by:

Brandon M. Kimura

Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

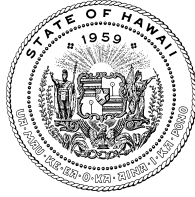
Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing.

Purpose: Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary testifies in support of the intent of this measure, which includes strategies to improve public safety and address significant challenges to public systems. In particular, the proposed supported services of mental health and substance use counseling are resources in high demand and low supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **James Koshiba**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
April 6, 2023
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211
In consideration of
House Bill 1397 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1397 HD1 and to offer comments.

This bill is aligned with the Governor's priorities on homelessness, which include an emphasis on supportive housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

The program proposed by this bill would provide an important complement to existing permanent supportive housing programs that reduce homelessness, such as the Housing First program, which is focused on "chronically homeless" individuals, i.e., individuals who have a diagnosed physical disability, mental illness, or addiction and who are verified as having been "homeless continuously for at least twelve months or, homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years..." (HRS §346-378). Many individuals experiencing homelessness may not meet the definition of "chronically homeless." Others meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or the duration of their "chronicity" needed to qualify. In addition, anyone who is homeless, but enters a hospital, treatment program, or jail for ninety days or more no longer qualifies as "chronically homeless," even if they still have no housing upon discharge and are therefore returned to the street. Supportive housing not limited to "chronically homeless" individuals, as proposed in this bill, can help fill these gaps.

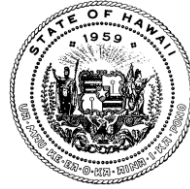
I applaud the targeting of households at or below thirty per cent of area median income, as those experiencing homelessness typically fall within this income range.

With regard to Section 2.(c) and the development of supportive housing projects, I defer to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation on Section 2.(c). I also defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Section 2.(d) and the creation of a project-based rent supplement program, and to the Department of Human Services regarding the use of Medicaid funds to match state funds for supportive services as described in Section 2.(e).

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



RICHARD RIES, Psy.D., M.Ed.
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

LATE

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
in SUPPORT of H.B. 1397 H.D.1 S.D. 1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

Richard I. Ries PsyD, MSEd

1st VICE CHAIRPERSON

Katherine Aumer, PhD

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

SECRETARY

Eileen Lau-James, DVM

MEMBERS:

Antonino Beninato

John Betlach

Naomi Crozier, CPS

Jon Fujii, MBA

Heidi Ilyavi

Jackie Jackson, CFPS

Chris Knightsbridge, MAIR, MACL

Kau'i Seguancia

Lea Dias, MEd

Jean Okudara, CSAC

Ray Rice, MEd

Mary Pat Waterhouse

Kristin Will, MACL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

[doh.scmhchairperson@
doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.scmhchairperson@doh.hawaii.gov)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, establishes the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The SCMH supports the intent of this measure to reduce houselessness which persists in threatening the mental health and well-being of a growing number of island residents. The effort can fill a gap in the continuum of housing and support services where the need is acute and urgent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.

VISION : A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Conference Room 211, 10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 1397, HD1, SD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

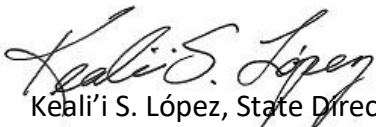
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP supports H.B 1397 HD1, SD1 which establishes a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs.

We appreciate this rare opportunity for the State to focus on creating supportive housing services especially for the extremely low income households who are at or below 30% AMI. Affordable supportive services have been the missing component in keeping residents with special needs to reside in a safe and clean residence and reducing homelessness in the state. Having services such as mental health, substance abuse counseling and activities of daily living support would benefit vulnerable and at risk residents including Hawaii's kūpuna, and allow them to maintain their independence and quality of life.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **H.B. 1397, HD1, SD1**.

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López, State Director



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: April 4, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1397, HD1, SD1:
Relating to Supportive Housing
Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10 a.m., Room 211 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1397, HD1, SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions; appropriates funds and establishes positions.

The Hawaiian Humane Society has been a voting member of Partners in Care since 2017. We have deep respect for the work being done by our local human social service agencies.

The lack of affordable housing affects our entire community, but housing access alone does not always spell success for our houseless population. Supportive housing is essential to give people the help and skills they need to keep from falling back into homelessness.

Housing insecurity is a threat to the wellbeing of Hawai'i's people and pets. The needs of pet owners must be considered in developing plans to create more affordable housing and related support services. In the 2022 Point in Time Count, 29 percent of O'ahu's unsheltered homeless reported owning at least one pet. These relationships are sometimes the most stable and loving connections in their lives. Pets also provide support as people face periods of transition. It is in the state's interest to set houseless residents up for success by making sure families can stay intact and have a roof over their heads.

Please pass HB1397, HD1, SD1, and invest in the affordable, pet-friendly supportive housing that our community so desperately needs. Mahalo for your consideration.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY: SUPPORT HB 1397 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committees on Ways and Means
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Thursday, 4/6/23; 10:00 AM; CR 211 & Videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in Strong Support of HB 1397 HD1 SD1**, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, people experiencing homelessness, 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.

This is a key bill for planning future housing and services to vulnerable populations in our state. Supportive housing is a growing need not only to address homelessness but also for the growing number of elders, developmentally disabled and other people who need housing and coordinated services. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in **costly institutional care and other high public costs.** The 2018 report that evaluated Honolulu's Housing First program (Pathways Project) found that **health care costs decreased by 76%, resulting in a cost savings of \$4,247/per person/per MONTH.** Incarceration costs showed a decrease of 40%-60%. Stable housing with regular services enables more preventative and ongoing care which can shift medical needs from the ER to regular out-patient settings.

We strongly support the amendments included SD1 which provide greater flexibility for this pilot program. Creating a new, comprehensive system to meet these growing needs requires this flexibility to adequately address the wide range of incomes and needs. This comprehensive bill includes the 3 key elements for success: rental subsidies, services and construction funds for affordable rentals. This bill provides an even greater opportunity for success by establishing the Supportive Housing Pilot Program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The SOHHS can provide the collaboration and oversight to take this big step forward! By coordinating with state, county and community agencies, as well as developers, the SOHHS would have the tools needed to build successful supportive housing models. Developing successful models through this pilot program will benefit not only houseless individuals but other vulnerable populations who need these types of affordable housing with ongoing services.

The price may seem big, but our emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, prisons, and our streets are overwhelmed. By working to end homelessness, great savings can be achieved. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813 if you have any questions.





HB1397 HD1 (S) Supportive Housing Pilot Project

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair


Thursday, Apr 6, 2023 10:00: Room 211

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1397 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.

Connection, support, sobriety, employment, and quality of life—these are all significant outcomes for people in recovery.

Supportive Housing (SH) is community-based housing targeted to low-income households with that combines housing with case management and wrap around care.



Supportive housing options are needed because recovery may need more than just a house.

The Hawai'i Supportive Housing Work Group was formed by the Hawaii Interagency for Homelessness through funding by the 2022 Hawaii State Legislature to establish a broad stakeholder group that could benefit from supportive housing, by pairing a housing unit with a rental subsidy and supportive services that fit the residents' needs.

- **This combination enables housing stability for community members with higher needs who may not be able to stay housed with a housing unit alone.**
- Local and national studies demonstrate the benefits of supportive housing on individual residents, our public systems, and our entire community.

SH is not formal treatment but has elements similar to treatment in that they involve peer support and other addiction recovery aids.¹ It's important to have various housing options for people because recovery is unique to each person.

SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery²

¹ SAMHSA Affordable Housing Models and Recovery <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/affordable-housing-models-recovery>

² SAMHSA's Working Definition of Recovery. <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP12->

1. Choice - Making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional wellbeing.
2. Home—A stable and safe place to live.
3. Purpose—Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society.
4. Community—Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

Supportive Housing (SH) helps to develop and provide housing and related supportive services for higher needs people moving from homelessness to independent, supportive living.³ Program funds help homeless people live in a stable place, increase their skills and their income, and gain more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

Services include housing subsidies, transitional housing, outreach, case management, childcare, social skills development, job training/placement, health care, and transportation. Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can help with funding. Supportive housing combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities including substance use disorders and mental health disorders.

Study after study has shown that supportive housing not only **resolves homelessness** and increases housing stability, but also improves health and **lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly-funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons.**

- The SH model has been demonstrated to permanently keep the majority of persons who enter the program from ever becoming homeless again.
- A primary goal is to address those significant challenges to help people avoid future episodes of homelessness.
- It's a higher level than a shelter that often limits the hours when a person can be onsite resulting in homeless individuals wandering through the neighborhood during the day.

Core Components

Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community. There is no single model for supportive housing's design.

There are three approaches to operating and providing supportive housing:⁴

RECDEF/PEP12-RECDEF.pdf

³ HUD Exchange SHP Supportive Housing Program <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/shp/>

⁴ Unites States Interagency Council on Homelessness: Supportive Housing. <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/supportive-housing/>

1. **Purpose-built or single-site housing:** Apartment buildings designed to primarily serve tenants with the support services typically available on site.
2. **Scattered-site housing:** People lease apartments in private market or general affordable housing apartment buildings using rental subsidies. They can receive services from staff who can visit them in their homes as well as provide services in other settings.
3. **Unit set-asides:** Affordable housing owners agree to lease a designated number or set of apartments to tenants who have exited homelessness or who have service needs, and partner with supportive services providers to offer assistance to tenants.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.



PACIFIC HOUSING
ASSISTANCE CORPORATION
888 Iwilei Road, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

IN SUPPORT OF HB1397 HD1 SD1

*Hawaii Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means*

Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation is a Hawaii nonprofit organization that works to develop and operate affordable housing for very low to moderate income families, seniors, and persons with special needs. We have partnered with nonprofit service providers over our 43-year history to construct, acquire, or renovate 31 projects, providing 338 affordable permanent supportive housing units for very low-income persons with physical, intellectual, developmental, and severe mental disabilities and other special needs groups. It has been our experience that developing and operating permanent supportive housing, especially for those earning 30% of AMI and below, is extremely difficult to achieve without government subsidy and support.

We strongly **support** HB1397 HD1 SD1 as it not only provides targeted development funds but delivers long term rental assistance and supportive service funding that are even harder to locate and secure. HB1397 HD1 SD1 will enable the creation of a variety of permanent housing solutions for a diverse and historically underserved population. There may be a shovel-ready supportive housing project or two in our community that is currently in the development process. These are the extremely rare projects that were able to cobble together scarce resources presently available in our community. The value of HB1397 is that it will create a new pipeline of supportive housing projects that did not exist at this time. HB1397 is critical in producing, facilitating, and expediting the creation of sorely needed affordable housing for our wide and diverse special need population.

We ask for your continued support of HB1397 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Audrey E. Awaya
Executive Director



HAWAI'I STATE
**COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

April 6, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Sen. Henry J.C. Aquino

Sen. Lynn DeCoite

Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye

Sen. Dru Mamo Kanuha

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Sen. Chris Lee

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki

Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

Sen. Glenn Wakai

Sen. Kurt Fevella

Re: HB1397 HD1 SD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 28 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in **support of HB1397 HD1 SD1 and support Partner in Care's recommendations**. This measure would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. This is a key bill for planning future housing and services to vulnerable populations in our state.

Survivors of domestic violence are especially vulnerable to homelessness. **Thirty-eight percent of all domestic violence victims become homeless at some point in their lives¹, and 57% of homeless women reported that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.²** Given the link between homelessness and domestic violence we support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Angelina Mercado, Executive Director


¹ <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/intersection>

² https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/SHP-Homelessness%20and%20DV%20Infographic_1.pdf



 808-733-7060

 808-737-4977

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1397, HD1, SD1, Relating to Supportive Housing

HEARING: Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1397, HD1, SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 7/1/2050.

Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® believes everyone needs safe, decent and stable housing as housing and shelter is one of our fundamental needs. Supportive housing has proven to be a highly effective strategy that combines affordable housing with coordinated services to provide individuals with much needed services. As such, we support the creation of a supportive housing pilot program to help provide those without shelter a place to call home while providing them the support they need, especially for those with disabling conditions.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® supports this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 211

RE: **HB1397 HD1 SD1 Relating to Supportive Housing**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1397 HD1 SD1**. This measure would establish a supportive housing pilot program within the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions to increase and maintain affordable, permanent housing and services for individuals and families with special needs.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only safety net health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person health needs.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole person care includes addressing a variety of social determinants of health, including housing, economic stability, and nutrition among other factors. We understand that without housing, our members are less able to focus on their health and well-being. We applaud supportive housing as an innovative and proven solution, which combines housing with access to supportive services to help special needs populations. In fact, this measure complements the Community Integration Services (CIS) pilot program that AlohaCare is participating in, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to Medicaid-enrolled households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This measure would broaden the population eligible to receive supportive services to live more stable and productive lives.

We are grateful to the Committees for considering this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB1397 HD1 SD1**.

LATE

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 3:01:21 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Testifying for HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hope Services Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1397 SD1, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

April 6, 2023

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Carl Takamura

Testimony in Support of H. B. 1397, H.D. 1, S. D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing

My name is Carl Takamura and I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for H. B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which would establish a pilot supportive housing program.

We are all well aware that Hawaii is in the midst of an acute housing crisis and that there is an urgent need to find solutions so that people can live safely and securely in homes with dignity. This is especially true for those who are homeless and at great risk of becoming homeless, such as individuals and families with limited income, kupuna on fixed incomes, veteran with emotional and physical disabilities, and the growing number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Included among the latter group are adults on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Without the help of their parents, who are aging and very concerned about the future of their adult children, many of these individuals with ASD may find themselves living on the streets of our communities.

A working group formed by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and composed of a broad cross section of our community, including advocates for the homeless and underserved populations, have made supportive housing recommendations, many of which are contained in H.B. 1397. They did this because their research and experience have shown that providing housing for vulnerable individuals while assisting them to meet their mental, physical and other challenges is an effective homeless prevention strategy.

I urge your support for this important measure.

Mahalo,

Carl Takamura

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:26:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Ways and Means Committee members,

I strongly support this initiative to establish and provide initial funding for a Supportive Housing Pilot Program. Focused on individuals and families at lower income levels with special needs, this program has had an excellent return on investment in the States that have one already in place. This innovative, proven, and cost saving legislation that will support 1. families with special needs, 2. help reduce our tragic homeless population and elated crime, and 3. grow our affordable housing inventory for our citizens of all ages. When approved, I believe this will be a very popular initiative and strongly request your continued support for its enactment. Thank you.

TO THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 6, 2023
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
TIMESLOT: WAM

Bill No: **HB 1397 HD1, SD1**
RELATING TO: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

HB1397 HD1 is a pilot program that has the potential to create more accessible housing, increase their quality of life, and encourage independence. Currently, there are barriers to housing that must be addressed. Many individuals experiencing homelessness may not meet the definition of “chronically homeless”. Another issue is that qualified individual(s) cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation for verification of their diagnosis or the duration to meet the standard of “chronic”.

Furthermore, quoting the Governor’s Coordinator Homeless James Koshiba shows how individuals can fall through the cracks because of the failure of policy or lack thereof. Mr. Koshiba states:

“[A]nyone who is homeless, but enters a hospital, treatment program, or jail for ninety days or more no longer qualifies as “chronically homeless,” even if they still have no housing upon discharge and are therefore, returned to the street.”

There needs to be continuity in the intent of policy so that the continuum of care system is more effective. I believe that increasing the supply and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals. In addition, the issue of homelessness can be even more daunting for Individuals transitioning from incarceration. Those individuals may face additional barriers to securing appropriate affordable housing.

Addressing this issue is not just an emotional argument, taking a cost-benefit analysis approach to these issues, studies conducted on homelessness suggest that services that with supportive housing measures in place addressing one of the largest social determinants of health the State of Hawaii may realize cost savings of \$4,200 a month. These savings are realized mainly through supportive housing and greater utilization of outpatient care rather than Emergency room care and resources. Adjusted for inflation according to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics CPI (Consumer Price Index) calculator \$4,200.00 in 2018 when the study was conducted translates in 2023 to \$5,097.60 cost savings per month.

Therefore, the conclusion based on the data, a movement toward legislative policies that will increase supportive housing efforts such as the passage of HB1397 HD1 is fiscally responsible. This may also have the added benefit of the need and creation of more housing through additional federal resources. The need for housing is in long-term rental housing, that can special consideration be given to accessibility issues for people with mobility and communication disabilities.

Thank you for reading my testimony and allowing me the opportunity to give testimony on this matter.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:33:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Kupuna.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 AM

Re: [HB 1397, HD1, SD1](#) - RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members.

My name is Linda Dorset, a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support HB1397 which extends the period for a notice of termination of the rental agreement from five business days to ten calendar days; requires landlords to engage in mediation; and creates an emergency rent relief program.

Hawai'i already established these programs in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, and they have kept tens of thousands of families stably housed during the pandemic. HB1439 will help build a bridge towards more permanent rental assistance and mediations programs in the future.

Evictions are harmful to the landlords who rely on rent payments and are especially harmful to the individual or family losing their home. The cost of eviction includes: interrupted employment and school, loss of wages, negative health impacts, and impaired legal records which make it harder to find future housing.

Hawai'i's estimated 2,500 annual evictions led to over \$30 million in public costs such as: the need for emergency shelters, in-patient care emergency room at hospitals, and foster care and juvenile detention. According to research by Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, for every tax dollar spent on rental assistance and landlord-tenant mediation programs, the public saves six dollars on homeless services.

Please PASS HB1439 to help prevent evictions and keep our island residents housed.

Linda Dorset
Wailuku Resident

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:01:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1397 HD1 SD1.

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:31:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1397 that addresses affordable housing and homelessness because Hawai`is senior population will increase and people will age so we will need more long-term services and support. I appreciate that Maui Rep. Troy Hashimoto has helped move HB1397 forward as this pilot program to provide affordable housing and support services for those who need extra help will be funded.

Hawai`i already faces the largest houseless population in America, and more and more elders will be forced to join them if this Bill fail. It is wrong to allow the continued homelessness and eviction rate of kupuna to grow, especially facing those with disabilities.

PLEASE SUPPORT AND PASS HB1397.

Mahalo!

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 11:36:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am in **STRONG** support of HB1397 HD1 SD1. We need this pilot project now more than ever, and I know that we will continue to need supportive housing programs desperately in the years to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 12:32:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marya Grambs	Testifying for Partners in Care	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senate Committees on Ways and Means

FROM: Marya Grambs, President, Board of Directors, Partners in Care

Hearing: Thursday, 4/6/23; 10:00 AM; CR 211 & Videoconference

Partners in Care (PIC) is a coalition over over 60 nonprofit homeless providers and related groups on Oahu whose mission is to end homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

This comprehensive bill includes 3 key elements: rental subsidies, services, and construction funds for affordable rentals. It will be housed in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to enable maximum collaboration and oversight. This model will benefit a range of people -- houseless individuals and other vulnerable, extremely low income populations such as elders and people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders who are likely not to flourish in housing without the very important and needed wrap-around support services.

The monies to be expended in this program will save the state the huge expenses in incarceration, homeless services, and hospitalization generated by these target populations when they are not provided supportive housing. **We strongly support the amendments included SD1 which provide greater flexibility for this pilot program.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for supporting this very important bill.

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 1:03:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Cisler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help. As the boomer generation wave ebbs and its voices dim, more leaders appear to be ignoring the needs of those who paved a way to access your future. Please help them live with grace and dignity.

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 1:29:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1397 HD1 SD1

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:15:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soo Sun Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Housing with supportive services for the vulnerable is what we need.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing: Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 1397, HD1, SD1**, Relating to Supportive Housing. Kupuna and others with limited resources are at higher risks for homelessness or eviction. The number of homeless Kupuna has been increasing each year.

HB 1397, HD1, SD1: Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

I urge you to support **HB 1397, HD1, SD1**.

Anna Filler
Senatorial District 12,
Email: afiller@twc.com

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:21:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Kamaunu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support. I strongly support this Mahalo.

HB-1397-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:32:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Boehm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Friends/Family in recovery from substance use disorders need related supportive services to ensure lasting sobriety and long term stable housing so that they can return to responsible/contributing community living.

Wednesday, April 6, 2023

LATE

State Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Supported Housing

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. My name is Sandra Oshiro and I coordinate the Hawaii Young Adults in Transition, a support group for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

I am submitting written testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which creates a pilot program to support and serve populations who are homeless or in danger of homelessness in the state. Among them are those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including individuals with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is a growing health issue. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it now affects 1 in every 36 children.

ASD is a lifelong disability. Many adults on the spectrum have difficulty finding employment as well as housing because of intellectual, communication, and mental health challenges. Without the support of family members, including parents who are now aging and will soon be unable to care for them, individuals with ASD can find themselves living on the streets.

For a good part of 2022, a broad-based work group brought together by House Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and representing advocates for the homeless, veterans, those with substance dependencies, and a host of other underserved populations met regularly to come up with supported housing recommendations for the Legislature's consideration. H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 reflects many of these recommendations.

Supported housing has been shown to effectively shelter vulnerable individuals while helping them address physical, mental, and other challenges that can otherwise result in a continuing cycle of homelessness.

Hawaii's housing crisis has defied government effort, with those at or below 30 percent of the area median income particularly underserved. This measure's comprehensive approach, including project-based rent supplements, significant rental housing revolving funds, resources for support services, and needed data collection, represents a major step in addressing what Gov. Josh Green has rightly declared a housing emergency.

As others have testified to previously, we ask that the committee closely consider the need for broad exemptions as called for in the bill from Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Transparency and public access are key to government trust, so a balancing of interests is necessary in addressing our housing crisis.

With passage of bills like H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, S.D.1 we can make measurable progress in ensuring there is affordable, equitable housing for those who are most in need. We look forward to your support.

Thank you,
Sandra Oshiro