

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In Support

H.B. No. 300, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of the Governor supports H.B. No. 300, Relating to the State Budget. We respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of our Executive Budget requests.

On December 19, 2022, Governor Josh Green submitted the Executive Budget for the 2023-2025 Fiscal Biennium (FB) to the Legislature. The Administration's total requests included \$9.8 billion in general funds and \$2.1 billion in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, and \$9.6 billion in general funds and \$1.4 billion in CIP for FY 2025. These requests include funding for priority areas to address the significant needs in healthcare, homelessness, and education in our State, such as:

- \$15 million in each year of FB 2023-2025 for the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program, which serves individuals who are homeless and places them into permanent housing;
- \$10.8 million in each year of FB 2023-2025 for homeless service and outreach programs;
- Over 60 positions and \$4.4 million for nursing and medical-related programs across University of Hawaii campuses and community colleges; and
- \$5 million for FY 2024 and \$10 million for FY 2025 for Medicaid Provider Payments that will increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for providers, thereby expanding access to high-quality healthcare and improving health outcomes for low-income families and individuals.

Governor Green also requested additional funds to address needs in the areas of affordable housing and infrastructure, homelessness, natural resources and climate,

Office of the Governor
H.B. No. 300
March 8, 2023

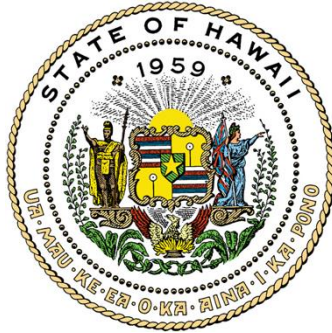
education, healthcare, government efficiency, and the cost of living in our State. These requests include:

- \$900 million for Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation programs to support affordable housing and infrastructure across the State;
- \$20 million for Hawaii Public Housing Authority statewide public housing development, improvements, and renovations statewide;
- \$25 million in FY 2024 and \$20 million in FY 2025 to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates up to 100 percent of Medicare;
- \$12.3 million to provide additional funding to the Department of Health for additional resources for mental health services throughout the State;
- 13 positions and \$434,668 in FY 2024 and \$793,980 in FY 2025 to support capacity for climate justice and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities statewide;
- \$25 million for the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund to provide financing for clean energy technology and infrastructure projects statewide;
- \$38.8 million in each year of FB 2023-2025 for the Preschool Open Doors Expansion to support preschool access for keiki; and
- \$36 million to modernize the State's unemployment insurance system.

To support the responsibilities under the Office of the Governor, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of the following eleven full-time equivalent (11.0 FTE) staff position requests:

- One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Housing Special Advisor position;
- Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) Senior Special Assistant positions for the Statewide Housing Policy Advisor for Housing policy team and support staff for coordination, policy, and execution;
- Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) Special Assistant staff positions: one position for constituent services on Molokai and one position for constituent services on Lanai;
- One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Federal Funds Advisor position and two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) Senior Special Assistant positions to serve as federal fund liaisons and state-federal affairs representatives and work with departments to pursue competitive federal funding;
- One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Mental Health Policy Advisor position to work on mental health policy coordination statewide; and
- One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to reestablish the Chief Negotiator position.

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



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'aina

TO: Chair Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

RE: Testimony for H.B. 300 – Relating to the State Budget

DATE: March 8, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of H.B. 300** which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive branch for fiscal years 2023 – 2024 and 2024 – 2025.

We appreciate the Committee's time at our budget briefing in January and we continue to support our submitted budget requests. For the Committee's information, the relevant appropriation for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is on page 54. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is requesting an operating budget that will continue to support statutory responsibilities, including the processing of name changes, issuing apostilles and certifications, and selling state publications, and will also support the shift in expectations and goals beyond the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of the office. My office has been entrusted with areas of policy, including pre-k expansion and broadband, that require additional resources to execute.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 300.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support with Requested Amendments to House Bill 300

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.

President and Chief Executive Officer

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **support with requested amendments to H.B. 300** that appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) plays a vital role in the healthcare delivery system for the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2022, HHSC's acute discharges for the four HHSC regions were 12,804, which accounts for approximately 12% of all acute care discharges in the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2022, HHSC's emergency department visits for the four HHSC regions were 71,176, representing approximately 17.1% of all emergency department visits statewide.

The impact of HHSC's facilities on the neighbor islands is even more impressive.

- For residents of the County of Hawaii, HHSC's facilities cared for over 70% of all acute care discharges and 79% of all emergency department visits.
- For residents of the County of Kauai, HHSC's facilities cared for approximately 22.6% of all acute care discharges and 37.7% of all emergency department visits.

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Historical Challenges

HHSC's facilities face challenges such as:

- Large percentage of Medicaid/QUEST and uninsured patients.
- Inadequate government and third-party reimbursements for healthcare services.
- Labor costs well above industry norms
- Difficulty in attracting and retaining specialized health sector workforce in rural communities due to cost of living and lack of education and training opportunities.
- Small scale operations which are costly to maintain.
- The need for capital investment in new medical technology.
- Aging facilities, with life and safety code issues and deferred maintenance, well beyond the average for similar facilities across the country.
- The impact of national changes to healthcare policy, federal mandates, and federal budget reductions.

Accomplishments

In spite of its many challenges, HHSC continues to provide high quality healthcare to the island communities it serves and is making progress in key areas. The following are some of the major accomplishments over the past year:

- Despite the challenges of dealing with the Coronavirus, HHSC managed to increase its operating revenues for fiscal year 2022 approximately 15.1% from fiscal year 2021 and 24.0% from fiscal year 2020. In addition to the provision of new critical service lines, these increases have come from intense focus on better negotiations with third party payors, better documentation, improved billing, coding and collection procedures, strategic pricing initiatives, working with the State Med-QUEST Division on improving uncompensated care payments, and other measures.
- Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital achieved the highest possible five-star rating from Medicare's Nursing Home Compare website. Leahi Hospital and Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital received a four-star rating.
- Hilo Medical Center achieved the highest possible overall five-star rating from Medicare's Hospital Compare website, one of only four hospitals in the State of Hawaii recognized for the highest level of quality patient care.

Fiscal Years 2024-2025 Budget Request (HTH 212)

Please note that the funding amounts and requests in this section do not include the Oahu Region of HHSC, as Act 248, SLH 2022, established a new organization code for the HHSC-Oahu Region (HTH 215). As a result, HTH 212 (HHSC-Regions) is now comprised of the HHSC East Hawaii, West Hawaii, and Kauai Regions.

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2022 - 2023, the total funding requested by HHSC for fiscal years 2024-2025, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal years 2024-2025 are summarized below.

HTH 212: HHSC REGIONS								
Funding Type	Act 88 SLH 2021 FY 2022	Act 248 SLH 2022 FY 2023	FY 24 Request	FY 25 Request	FY 2024 Gov Ige Rec	FY 2025 Gov Ige Rec	FY 2024 Gov Green Rec	FY 2025 Gov Green Rec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	92,970,903	100,868,603	224,331,303	235,222,303	125,286,303	125,286,303	137,963,303	149,644,303
ARPA Funds for Kauai Adolescent Mental Health (V Funds)	1,300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARPA Funds for Operations (V Funds)	32,315,400	41,238,400	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL STATE SUBSIDY AMOUNTS	126,586,303	142,107,003	224,331,303	235,222,303	125,286,303	125,286,303	137,963,303	149,644,303

The amount of HHSC’s request is larger than it would normally be because the ARPA funds and general fund appropriations HHSC received in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 were marked as nonrecurring. These nonrecurring amounts total approximately \$58 million that was reduced from HHSC’s fiscal year 2023 funding amounts resulting in a base is that is below this year’s expenditures. The justification for HHSC’s requests are shown below:

	HTH212	
	FY 24	FY 25
Base Budget per B&F	84,047,903	84,047,903
Justification for Additional Funding Requests:		
Restoration of ARPA Funds Provided to Maui Health Systems in FY 23	8,923,000	8,923,000
Restoration of ARPA (V Funds) Provided in FY 22 and FY 23	32,315,400	32,315,400
Restoration of Additional General Fund (A Fund) Appropriations provided in FY 23	16,821,000	16,821,000
Loss of Enhanced Uncompensated Care Revenue	19,187,000	19,187,000
Collective Bargaining Pay Increases for FY 24-25	12,677,000	24,358,000
Unfunded Collective Bargaining Raises from Prior Years	14,144,000	14,144,000
Unfunded Fringe Benefit Rate Increases from Prior Years, net of revenue generating initiatives	32,726,000	28,229,000
Inflation Adjustments, net of revenue increases	3,490,000	7,197,000
Total Additional Funding Requests	140,283,400	151,174,400
Total General Fund Appropriations Requested	224,331,303	235,222,303

First, HHSC received Federal Provider Relief Fund grants totaling approximately \$63.5 million from fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2022 that provided HHSC with the working capital needed to lower its general fund appropriation needs in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. In addition, HHSC received \$19.8 million in SBA Paycheck Protection Program loans which also lowered the need for HHSC to receive general fund appropriations in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. A third factor are the changes in the DHS uncompensated care payments of \$19.2 million to HHSC was a result of the federal Coronavirus state of emergency. When the federal CARES Act was passed in 2020, it increased the State of Hawaii Federal Matching Percentage to help states receive more federal funding to offset losses from the Coronavirus pandemic. The increase in the federal matching percentage combined with the increase in

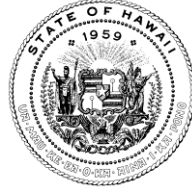
HHSC's losses from Medicaid, QUEST, and uninsured patients caused HHSC's DHS uncompensated care amounts to increase dramatically in fiscal years 2020 until now. However, the increased Federal Matching Percentage from the CARES Act will go away once the federal government declares that the Coronavirus state of emergency is over. This is anticipated to happen prior to the start of fiscal year 2024. For purposes of projecting HHSC's funding needs, it is assumed that the DHS uncompensated care revenue that HHSC receives will go back to its 2019 (pre-pandemic) level of approximately \$30.9 million, which is a decrease of approximately \$19.2 million from what HHSC is currently receiving.

These federal funds helped to finance the State mandated increases in fringe benefit rates and prior unfunded collective bargaining raises during fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Together, federal funds received provided approximately \$102 million in funding that would otherwise have to come out of general fund appropriations. These federal funds do not even address the increase in costs associated with new unfunded mandates such as healthcare inflation costs and collective bargaining pay increases for fiscal years 2024-2025.

Despite our progress in financial and operational performance as indicated under "Accomplishments" above, HHSC is unable to keep up with collective bargaining pay increases and future mandated increases in the fringe rate for pension and retiree health insurance costs (OPEB). The inability to generate sufficient revenue to cover these costs led to reductions in personnel and services in fiscal year 2016, and may lead to future reductions in personnel and services unless general fund appropriations are provided to cover these rising costs. **As a result, HHSC is respectfully requesting approval of its full funding request at a total funding level of \$224,331,303 in fiscal year 2024 and \$235,222,303 in fiscal year 2025.**

This testimony addresses only the amounts that would go to HTH 212, HHSC – Regions. We expect Kahuku Medical Center, Maui Health Systems, and Oahu Region to provide their own testimony in support of the amounts appropriated for those entities in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure **in support with requested amendments.**



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 300, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department). The Department supports and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023 - 2024 and 2024 - 2025.

For the Committee's information, the relevant program appropriations for the Department are on pages 51 to 52 of this measure. The Department strongly supports this measure and would like to highlight GM001 pages 21 to 22 that offers proposed changes to the fiscal budget 2023-2025 Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 300

March 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

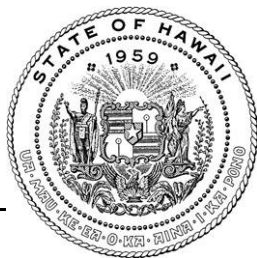
The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) supports this Administration bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 300 requests appropriations for FB 2023-25 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement program (CIP) projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. This bill also incorporates selected appropriations, including those for collective bargaining and from Act 6, SpSLH 2021; includes the cost element breakdown for all CIP projects, pursuant to Chapter 37, Budget, HRS; and establishes the budget for the new Department of Law Enforcement pursuant to Act 278, SLH 2022.

B&F strongly recommends that the Committee amend the bill to incorporate the operating and CIP budget adjustments proposed in the Governor's Budget Message dated February 13, 2023. Together, the budget requests in this bill and the Governor's Budget Message will provide critical funding to support the Administration's priorities for affordable housing and infrastructure, reducing homelessness, protecting natural resources and climate, education, improving access to healthcare including mental health services, government efficiency, and reducing the cost of living.

This bill and the Governor's Budget Message also replenishes resources for programs that were severely impacted by budget reductions, while building back the State's workforce by restoring position counts and funds for deleted positions and funding for defunded and underfunded positions, and provides funding for increases in essential operating costs, such as utilities and insurance. In addition, H.B. No. 300 and the Governor's Budget Message provides funding to support other essential public services and to improve State programs.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room #308 and Videoconference

In consideration of
HB300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB300 that appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget for the Executive Branch.

To continue to drive, diversify and support our State's economy, DBEDT is requesting additional resources to implement key areas such as AgTech, value-added services, and the development of facilities that will foster the growth of exports; State energy initiatives that provide relief on energy costs while meeting the 100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045; and significant investments that will deliver affordable homes and keep projects moving forward that may have been impacted by the rise of costs.

We would like to ask for your favorable consideration of the following additional budget adjustments that were relayed in Governor's Message #1.

Additional Operating Requests

- BED120/SI - \$1,150,000 in Special Funds for FY24 and FY25 for cost match and working capital for federal grants and programs. This request is for an annual appropriation from the Energy Security Special Fund. This use of ESSF funds will allow Hawaii to compete for its fair share of federal funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

- BED130/TR - \$2,994,167 for FY24 and \$3,382,618 for FY25 in General Funds for tourism research projects. The projects provide data and analysis at the highest frequency possible on Hawaii's tourism industry which is the largest employer in the state. The data and analysis are used by private businesses and government agencies for planning, monitoring, assessing, and managing activities related to tourism and other industries.
- BED142/AA - \$58,704 for FY24 and \$62,508 for FY25 in General Funds for salary differential to provide full-year funding for #120107 Administrative Services Officer I.
- BED142/DE - \$5,000,000 in General Funds for FY24 to fund the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program. This program provides funding for projects that fall outside of the federal Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program which funds last mile fiber to unserved and underserved households. The Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program will help fund, for example, tiny home, Kauhale communities that are non-typical fiber to the home projects. The Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program was enacted in Act 225, SLH 2021 but was unbudgeted.
- BED143/TE - \$67,044 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 to restore salary for the Technology Marketing Specialist. The position is needed to ensure statewide outreach and data collection for HTDC programs.
- BED144/DA - \$17,665 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for personal services adjustments for the Land Use Commission. This is payroll reconciliation for salary differentials not reflected in prior fiscal years.
- BED144/DA - \$25,060 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for increased travel budget for the Land Use Commission. The Land Use Commission holds meetings in person across the state and travel costs are increasing due to inflation. Due to drastic increases in the cost of travel, rental cars and lodging, the LUC will incur an estimated 30% increase in travel expenses across the board.
- BED144/PL - \$254,275 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for restoration of funding for Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 122605) and funds for Other Current Expenses reduced pursuant to Act 88, SLH 2021. Funding for the Special Plans Project Analyst was removed during the COVID-19 economic downturn. OPSD budget has been reduced over the years but has added the Environmental Review Program (former OEQC), which along with inflation, has reduced OPSD's ability for the current budget to support the Office's programs.
- BED144/PL - \$279,354 in General Funds for FY24 and \$418,008 in FY25 to establish the OPSD Statewide Sustainability Branch, adding 1.00 Permanent FTE and funds for a Planner V, 2.00 Temporary FTE and funds for Sustainability and Climate Specialist positions, and 1.00 Temporary FTE and

funds for a Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Specialist position, and operating funds. The Statewide Sustainability Branch was enacted in Act 45, SLH 2020, but remains unstaffed and unbudgeted.

- BED144/PZ - \$500,000 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 to increase services on a fee to provide matching federal funds to support the administration and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program pursuant to HRS Chapter 205A. The State is responsible for meeting a one-to-one matching requirement to remain federally approved and eligible for federal funding. The CZM Program receives \$2.5 million in Federal funds annually. The current general fund budget for the program is \$238,345 in personnel and other current expenses. A federal evaluation expressed concern that the State's continued lack of state funding for the CZM Program endangers the state's ability to implement the federally approved Hawaii CZM Program.
- BED150/KA and KL - The request is to transfer one position's Program ORG Code from BED150/KL to BED150/KA. This is a housekeeping request to align with HCDA's reorganization, which was completed in October 2022. The net impact is \$0 - (\$111,014 in FY24 and \$114,557 in FY25) in General Funds from KL to \$111,014 in FY24 and \$114,557 in FY25 in General Funds to KA.
- BED150/KA and KL - The request is to transfer one position and OCE Program ORG Code from BED150/KL to BED150/KA. This is a housekeeping request to align with HCDA's reorganization, which was completed in October 2022. The net impact is \$0 - (\$320,000) in Special Funds (\$120,000 Personnel Services and \$200,000 Other Current Expenses) from KL to \$320,000 in Special Funds to KA.
- BED160/ HD- \$250,000,000 in General Funds for both fiscal years for Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund infusion, statewide. This request aligns with the request made by the Governor in his 2023 state of the state address to work with the Legislature to make significant investments that will deliver affordable homes. DURF funds are used for the acquisition of real property, development and construction of residential, commercial and industrial properties, providing loans to the county and private developers as well as loans or grants to other state agencies for infrastructure improvements that are needed to facilitate housing development.
- BED 160/ HF- \$200,000,000 in General Funds for both fiscal years for Rental Housing Revolving Fund infusion for affordable rental housing, statewide. For FY24, the appropriation request would provide for Tier 1 financing awards and cover project shortfalls to keep existing projects moving forward that may have been impacted by higher than projected constructions costs and interest rates. For FY25, the appropriation request would provide for Tier 1 financing awards up to the bond activity cap plus administer another round of Tier 2

financing under a budget proviso that authorizes the use of funds at the Tier 2 level with the flexibility to apply to either tier depending on the volume of qualified applications for both tiers.

- BED170/KB – 1.00 FTE and \$90,000 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25, Full-year funding for Accountant V Established Pursuant to Act 219, SLH 2022. The position is requested to manage the office’s financial system. A 2021 financial audit noted the ADC did not have an accountant to create and maintain an accounting system. The position supports the auditor’s recommendation.
- BED180/SA – Request to increase the Stadium Development Special Fund (SDSF) ceiling by \$49.5M for FY24. Approval of this request will allow the Stadium Authority to be in the best possible position to financially underwrite the construction of a new multi-sport/entertainment venue. The \$49.5M in general funds was appropriated pursuant to Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 and by proviso 17.3 authorized the deposit of the \$49.5M appropriation into the SDSF. This request for ceiling increase is submitted in conjunction and alignment with HB1018 / SB1316 (companion) to extend the general fund lapse date to 06/30/24 and allow for the proper deposit of funds into the SDSF.

Additional CIP Requests

- BED107 - \$2,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 for design, construction and equipment to upgrade the FTZ’s Pier 2 facility electrical system from an ungrounded, “DELTA” system to the modern “WYE” system which will combine three meters into one, better distribute power and allow for better management of the facility’s 300kW photovoltaic system.
- BED107 - \$7,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 for design and construction of a multiuse facility at FTZ’s Hilo property. This will become the Tropical Ag-Tech Hub for the Pacific which is a demonstration and innovation center for food production and technologies. FTZ has executive order to the five-acre property.
- BED138 - \$25,000,000 in General Funds for FY24 to provide much needed loan capital to finance community-led, community solar projects; attract private capital to assist with the estimated \$3.75 billion financing gap through credit enhancements; and to decrease the energy burden for underserved ratepayers by providing below market, flexible financing of solar+storage systems.
- BED143 - \$17,500,00 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 to support the planning, design and construction of the First Responders Tech Campus infrastructure. The project will support the needs of Federal, State, and County agencies.

- BED144 - \$2,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 and FY25 to support planning of state and county transit-oriented development projects, including infrastructure assessments, mixed-use development, and affordable housing. The promotion of mixed-use development and affordable housing within transit-oriented development areas across the state is one of the most viable means for addressing the need for affordable housing. Since the establishment of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development, the State has appropriated capital improvement project funds to support planning of transit-oriented development projects in all four counties.
- BED146 - \$17,317,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 for construction of three new roads, Island of Hawaii: The total scope of this project includes the construction of three of five new roads and is a pre-requisite for future new land development at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park) which NELHA administers. Total for the five roads estimated at \$31.7M and approximately 1.1 miles in length. Three of the five roads have already been designed and are “shovel-ready”. When completed these roads will provide access to approximately 100 additional acres of available land in HOST Park. The total construction cost includes design, archaeological monitoring, construction engineering services, HELCO service fees, construction management and contingencies.
- BED146 - \$1,900,000 in Reimbursable General Obligation Bonds for FY24 to undertake improvements and upgrades to the seawater system, Island of Hawaii: Improvement and upgrades to NELHA’s internal electrical grid, pumps, and associated hardware as well as equipment control and monitoring software which provides surface and deep-sea water throughout HOST Park. Upgrades will facilitate the development of additional renewable energy systems including photovoltaic as well as the ability to transfer power among pump stations. In addition, newer equipment is now much more efficient in terms of power consumption per gallon pumped and thereby reduce or stabilize seawater costs to businesses in the park.
- BED146 - \$1,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed offshore research corridor, Island of Hawaii: The waters offshore of HOST Park offer an ideal location for testing innovative underwater OTEC, conservation, advanced energy, offshore aquaculture, and ocean monitoring concepts to address climate change. The EIS for the proposed offshore research corridor would describe specific activities that could take place in these waters and provide a path for expedited approval for short-term, small-scale, non-commercial demonstration or research projects for OTEC, offshore aquaculture, energy, ocean monitoring and conservation activities.
- BED150 - \$1,000,000 in General Funds for FY24 for Street Improvements in Central Kakaako. The State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu

are collaborating to improve the streets in Kakaako. This request is for the plan and design of multiple streets. The improvements will include roadway repairs and patching, drainage and waterline upgrades, and electricity and telecom upgrades.

- BED150 - \$17,500,000 in General Funds for FY 24 for Central Kakaako Street Improvements. The State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu are collaborating to improve the streets in Kakaako. This request is for the design and construction of Ilaniwai Street (subject to change). Upon completion of the project, HCDA plans to dedicate the improvement to the City & County of Honolulu to own, operate, and maintain.
- BED170 - \$6,700,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24, state irrigation system reservoir safety improvements, statewide. This project is necessary to qualify for Federal aid financing and/or reimbursement statewide. The funding is required to complete work on reservoirs for dam safety compliance.
- BED170 - \$3,750,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24, Wahiawa Value-Added Product Development Center, Oahu. The funding is for the purchase of land adjacent to the project property. The land will allow the facility to expand and offer additional equipment to develop Hawaii made products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 300 – RELATING TO STATE BUDGET
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Conference Room 308

EARLY LEARNING BOARD POSITION: SUPPORT

The Early Learning Board (ELB) is the Governing Board for the Executive Office on Early Learning. It strongly supports H.B. No. 300 with the additions in GM 1.

The ELB appreciates the Legislature's on-going support of EOEL's current Public Pre-K Program and its efforts to expand opportunities to increase access to quality early care and learning experiences to children across our State. The Board supports EOEL's identified priorities (see below) as it seeks to better meet its early childhood systems building charge and defers to EOEL's comments and details included in its EDN 700 Budget proposal requests.

EOEL's priorities supported by the Early Learning Board include,

- **Expanding EOEL Public Pre-K to open 55 additional classrooms in School Year August 2024** (The additional classrooms are located on all islands across the State and will allow EOEL to service up to an additional 1,100).
- **A funding appropriation of \$660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program** (program was established by the Legislature through Act 210, SLH 2021, and provides upfront funding to eligible students pursuing early childhood coursework and credentials).
- **Expanding EOEL's systems and office capacity** (the addition of 4 FTE position counts and a total of \$177,257 for a Business Manager, Contracts Specialist, Institutional Analyst, and Program Specialist V).
- **An appropriation ceiling request for the Early Learning Special Fund** (no appropriation).

These budget requests will allow EOEL to continue its work to increase and improve access to early learning opportunities for all young children by providing necessary funding to increase early learning services, bolster the workforce, and enhance EOEL's office capacity. We respectfully request the legislature adopt the requests for EDN700 as reflected in the FY 2023-2025 Biennium Budget and GM 1 and consider supporting ELB's needed resources to enhance its system building capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 8, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HB300**, relating to the specific budget items noted below. This measure appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

HTH 905- Developmental Disabilities Council
Page 29, Item No 25

HTH905	FY2022	FY2023
	2.50 *	2.50 *
HTH	246,563 A	246,563 A
	5.00 *	5.00 *
HTH	527,570 N	527,570 N

This appropriation amount in HB300 provides the Council with current staffing and fiscal resources in order to implement 2022-2026 State Plan activities in the areas of community supports; health and children and youth; public awareness, education and training; transition and employment; and self-advocacy/self-determination.

Activities include policy development, implementation, and analysis; informing and educating policymakers about Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD); establishing networks and coalitions on specific issues and concerns relating to developmental disabilities; conducting legislative advocacy training; providing leadership training; demonstrating new approaches to services and supports; fostering interagency collaboration and communication; coordinating and sponsoring the annual Day at the Capitol, transition events, and neighbor island of Oahu legislative forums, etc.

The council would also like to highlight their support with the appropriations listed under HTH501. However, the additional funds needed to; implement the 2020 Rate Study for the Home and Community Based Services 1915c Medicaid "Waiver Program", address growth in the population, address mandated minimum wage increase, and begin to implement the workforce development initiatives, is missing. An additional \$2,800,000 in FY24 and \$6,300,000 in FY25 is needed to do this. Without the additional funds, we are at risk for wait listing individuals into the Waiver Program and subjected the State to a possible lawsuit. We defer to the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department of Health for further comment.

Representative Yamashita, Chair
March 8, 2023
HB300
Page 2

HTH 501- Developmental Disabilities
Page 27-28, Item No 18

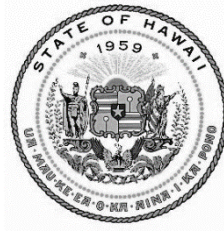
HTH501	FY2022	FY2023
	205.00 *	205.00 *
	2.00 **	2.00 **
HTH	104,195,398 A	104,195,398 A
	6.00 *	6.00 *
HTH	7,792,773 B	7,792,773 B
	(Additional \$2,800,000 needed)	(Additional \$6,300,000 needed)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HB300**, relating to the specific budget items noted below.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
75 AUPUNI STREET, STE. BASEMENT
HILO, HAWAII 96720

March 6, 2023

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 03/08/2023

Room Number 308

The School Facilities Authority (“SFA”) stands in **strong support** of HB300 as it pertains to our budget request in Program ID EDN450.

The SFA was statutorily established in 2020 by Act 72 SLH2020 to develop new schools, new school facilities, and redevelopment projects on school lands. The SFA received its first staffing allocations in 2022 with 4 FTEs being allocated for FY23. In that time, the SFA has moved quickly to hire staff and setup internal operations and infrastructure.

The SFA has also invested a significant amount of its time in the execution of Act 257 SLH2022 and the expansion of pre-kindergarten facilities. This critically important investment in our keiki’s future continues to progress thanks to the efforts of our many partners in this effort such as the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education (“DOE”), Executive Office on Early Learning, Charter School Commission, and other State and private partners.

In our efforts to continue to make good on this investment by the Legislature, the SFA is requesting three additional full-time equivalents (“FTEs”) in the executive budget request outlined in HB300. These three FTEs will allow the SFA to continue expanding our operational capacity to meet not just the requirements of Act 257 SLH2022, but also future expansions of pre-kindergarten facilities to meet the goals of set forth by Act 46 SLH2020. Our requested positions include a project manager, planner, and management analyst. In an effort to remain as efficient as possible, the SFA is not requesting additional funds in the executive budget to cover the costs of these FTEs.

If the requested FTEs are approved as noted in HB300, the SFA will have a total of 7 FTEs with a 1,300,000-million-dollar operating budget. Our budget tables would be reflected as follows:

FY 2024	FTE	\$	FY 2025	FTE	\$
A Funds	7.0	\$1,300,001	A funds	7.00	\$1,300,001
C funds		\$750,000.00	C funds		\$5,250,000.00

HB300 is also inclusive of two Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding requests in FY24 and FY25. These lump sum requests are to address on-going school capacity issues statewide in fulfillment of our role in new school and new school facility projects. The SFA seeks to work with the DOE on identifying sites in the first fiscal year, and utilizing the second year appropriation for work associated with the identified sites from the first fiscal year.

The SFA believes that the budget requests outlined in HB300 are both reasonable and prudent to expand our capacity to fulfill our statutory obligations as set forth by the Legislature. We look forward to continuing to build the facilities that our keiki deserve and work with the Legislature on future collaborative efforts. We respectfully request your support of the requests for EDN450 as outlined in HB300.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB300 and for your on-going support of Hawaii's keiki.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 6, 2023

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 300 – RELATING TO STATE BUDGET
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Conference Room 308

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING’S POSITION: Support

EOEL strongly supports H.B. No. 300 with the additions included in Governor’s Message 1 (GM 1).

Investing in our youngest keiki provides short-term and a long-term benefit. Investing in quality early care and education not only provides immediate support to Hawai`i’s working families and boosts the economy by providing jobs, high-quality early childhood programs also help build “stronger family lives that result in larger gains for their children” and “have substantial second-generation effects on education, employment, crime, school suspensions, and health.”¹

We appreciate the Legislature’s commitment to ensure EOEL’s ability to maintain existing services for young children and their families and for its support of our work to increase access to high-quality early learning. EOEL provides comments on the EDN700 budget and details of our requests, with a table demonstrating total budgetary requests for the biennium. The proposed EDN700 budget in H.B. No 300 and GM 1 reflect the following:

- **Expanding EOEL Public Pre-K to open 55 additional classrooms in School Year August 2024.** EOEL currently offers 37 EOEL Public Prekindergarten programs across 34 DOE campuses. The additional classrooms will be located on all islands and will allow EOEL to service up to an additional 1,100 children.
- **A funding appropriation of \$660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program.** To successfully expand early learning opportunities for young children and families, we must also bolster efforts to support the recruitment and retention of the early learning workforce. This program was established by the Legislature through Act 210, SLH 2021, and provides upfront funding to eligible students pursuing early childhood coursework and credentials. The program requires that recipients provide two consecutive years of early care and education services in one of the early learning systems as described in Section 302L-2, for children birth to five years of age.

- **Expanding EOEL’s systems and office capacity.** EOEL is requesting the addition of 4 FTE position counts and a total of \$177,257 for a Business Manager, Contracts Specialist, Institutional Analyst, and Program Specialist V. These positions would be responsible for overseeing fiscal management and operations of the Office and contracts; overseeing the execution and implementation of contracts, MOAs, and MOUs; conducting research and development of policy matters including administrative rules; and overseeing the facilitation and renewal of the Early Childhood State Plan and convening stakeholders in subsequent implementation.
- **An appropriation ceiling request for the Early Learning Special Fund** (no appropriation). With Hawai’i being awarded the Federal Preschool Development Birth through Five Grant, we anticipate opportunities to leverage other sources of funding and the appropriation ceiling would allow the Office to draw down on those funds.

HB 300 and GM 1 Requests	FY 2024		FY 2025	
Priority 1	FTE (P)	Total \$	FTE (P)	Total \$
Expansion of 55 New EOEL Classrooms	13	\$2,730,428	126	\$7,641,383
Priority 2	FTE (P)	Total \$	FTE (P)	Total \$
Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program	0	\$660,000	0	\$660,000
Priority 3	FTE (P)	Total \$	FTE (P)	Total \$
Enhance EOEL Office Capacity	4	\$177,257	4	\$177,257
Priority 1	FTE (P)	Total \$	FTE (P)	Total \$
Appropriation Ceiling only for Early Learning Special Fund	0	\$3,000,000	0	\$3,000,000

Should the requests above be funded, EDN 700 totals will reflect:

FY 2024	FTE	\$
A Funds	111.0	\$10,640,722.00
B funds		\$3,100,000.00
N funds	1.0	\$125,628.00

FY 2025	FTE	\$
A funds	224.0	\$15,551,677.00
B funds		\$3,000,000.00
N funds	1.0	\$125,628.00

These budget requests will allow EOEL to continue our work to increase and improve access to early learning opportunities for all young children by providing necessary funding to increase early learning services, bolster the workforce, and enhance EOEL’s office capacity. We respectfully request the legislature adopt the requests for EDN700 as reflected in the FY 2023-2025 Biennium Budget and GM 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support on this bill.

¹Heckman, James, and Ganesh Karapukula, (2019).



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPĪ
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 300 appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-204 and 2024-2025. The Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure and respectfully request the committee adopts Governor Green's budget amendments with regards to additional funding for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission.

The KIRC is the single government agency responsible to provide and maintain on-island infrastructure and services on Kahoolawe. Our on-island responsibilities include operating and maintaining an OSHA standard, field workcamp to support staff and a volunteer workforce while restoring the devastated landscape of Kahoolawe.

The measure as currently written transfers current KIRC allotted personnel and funding from the Office of the DLNR Chairperson (LNR 906) to a new, dedicated program identification for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (LNR 908) to establish a dedicated funding requirement for the KIRC. Additionally, the measure provides full-year funding for two new KIRC positions (2.0 FTE) previously funded for half a year in fiscal year 2023.

On February 13, 2023, the Honorable Josh Green, Governor of the State of Hawaii, submitted to the legislature for its consideration, proposed changes to the FB2023-2025 Executive Budget. This submittal includes the continuation of operating funding provided to the KIRC in Act 248/SLH2022.

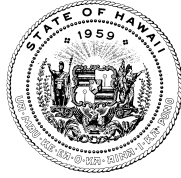
The general funds provided in Act 248/SLH2022 was a significant one-time contribution to the operations and support needed to continue the KIRC's innovative and effective Kahoolawe Island restoration and management efforts. The KIRC seeks, through this amendment, to make

this funding permanent to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai`a Base Camp, on-island facilities and infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean going vessel, `Ōhua. Without our base of operations, the well-maintained equipment and facilities on Kaho`olawe, and our means of getting to and from Kahoolawe, safe public access as well as the continuing management and restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe would be impossible. This funding is crucial to the long-term stability and continuation of the KIRC's on-island restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawaii 'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina
'o Hawaii 'i*



IKAIKA ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE, HHC
Ka Luna Ho 'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY DESIGNATE TO THE
CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho 'okele

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho 'opulapula Hawaii 'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON MARCH 8, 2023 AT 10:00AM IN CR 308**

HB 300, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

March 8, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and includes funding for our two (2) programs, HHL 602 – Planning and Development for Hawaiian Homesteads and HHL 625 – Administration and Operating Support. House Bill 300 includes \$16,428,191 in general funds for FY 2024 and \$16,796,100 for FY 2025 to cover the department's existing personnel, administrative and operating costs in HHL 625.

The budget bill also includes requests for \$10 million in general funds, \$4,824,709 in special funds, \$3,740,534 in trust funds, \$7 million in revolving funds, \$23,318,527 in authorization to receive federal funds from the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), and \$20 million in CIP funding for each fiscal year.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission approved the "Sufficient Sums" budget request, which DHHL submitted to the Governor and the Legislature as detailed in our budget testimony that can be reviewed at:
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM-HWN_01-10-23_HHL.pdf. DHHL's obligation to make this request is clear.

We are most appreciative of the support given by the Legislature to the Hawaiian homes program. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3807
Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 300

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 300, which provides operating and capital improvement appropriations and authorizations for Executive Branch agencies and programs in Fiscal Biennium (FB) 2023-25. The Hawai'i State Energy Office – BED120's FB 2023-25 budget requests address HSEO's top priorities as the critical path to a resilient clean energy economy. To enable HSEO to fulfill its mission on behalf of Hawai'i's residents, HSEO is requesting:

- Trade-off and Transfer Adjustment to Fully Fund Underfunded Position. Request to reduce Other Current Expenses - MOF A (\$18,240)/(\$18,240) recurring. This request is to transfer funds from Other Current Expenses (Library books, publications, and reports) to Personal Services to fully fund an underfunded position– Public Affairs Officer #119365.
- Trade-off and Transfer Adjustment to Fully Fund Underfunded Position. Request to increase Personal Services - MOF A \$18,240/\$18,240 recurring. This request is to fully fund the underfunded Public Affairs Officer position through a trade-off and transfer funds from Other Current Expenses (Library

books, publications, and reports). The position is currently filled at a salary of \$100,980. The budgeted salary is \$91,200. \$18,240 is requested to not only cover the existing payroll shortage but to also provide additional funds for the position to be redescribed with an adjusted salary commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of a branch manager.

- Federal Fund Adjustment - State Energy Program. Request to adjust MOF N \$0/\$832,876. This request pertains to a three-year major, recurring federal award from US Department of Energy for State Energy Program, CFDA No. 81.041. This request is to adjust (increase) the federal fund ceiling to reflect the anticipated federal award amount more accurately for fiscal year 25. The three-year amount is anticipated to be \$1.5 million. This adjustment would correct the way federal awards should be recorded in the budget for appropriation and allotment purposes.

- Full-Year Funding for Half-Year Funded Positions. Request for MOF A \$225,000/\$225,000 recurring. This request is for full-year funding for half-year funded positions which were authorized in Act 248, SLH 2022:

Energy Analyst #123896 SRNA	37,500
Energy Assurance Specialist #124025 SRNA	45,000
Transportation Energy Specialist #124091 SRNA	46,500
Energy Grants Specialist #93010B SRNA	30,000
Regulatory Assistant #93011B SRNA	30,000
Energy Economics Specialist #93012B SRNA	<u>36,000</u>
	225,000

- Funds for Payroll. Request for MOF A \$66,915/\$66,915 recurring. This request is for additional funds for Personal Services. Act 122, SLH 2019 established that HSEO be led by the Chief Energy Officer; however, the legislation did not authorize such a position or appropriate any funds for a position. To meet the intent of Act 122, the Governor determined a salary amount for the position and DBEDT/HSEO needed to redescribe one of its

existing positions and vary the salary to carry out the Governor's intent.

These necessary actions created a payroll deficit which HSEO has been using OCE funds to cover each year. With the elimination of the Energy Program Administrator position and funding, and drastic reductions to OCE in FY22, HSEO is no longer able to cover the payroll deficit and must request additional payroll funds. The budgeted salary for the CEO position #101240 is \$80,625. The requested \$66,915 will bring the budgeted salary to \$147,540.

- Data Lake. Request for MOF B \$30,000/\$30,000 recurring. This request is for funding to maintain the annual licenses for the Data Lake. The HSEO Data Lake (“Energy Data Portal”) was launched in November 2022. It serves as a shared repository for data sources and elements that are pertinent to informing, guiding, and monitoring progress towards the State of Hawai'i's clean energy initiatives and goals.
- Data Lake – Adjustment. Request for MOF A \$30,000/\$30,000 recurring. This request is to reconcile the recurring amount in BED120's base budget for funding to maintain the annual licenses for the Data Lake. If this adjustment request is approved, a special fund ceiling increase of \$30,000 will not be needed.

In addition, Governor's Message No. 1 requests:

- Cost Match and Working Capital for Federal Grants and Programs. Request for MOF B \$1,150,000/\$1,150,000 recurring. This request is for an annual appropriation from the Energy Security Special Fund (ESSF) for state cost match/share or working capital on grant applications or for securing federal/other resources. As Hawai'i will compete against other states for its fair share of federal funds under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, it is in the state's best interest to have an ESSF appropriation available, up to \$1.15 million each fiscal year, to use as cost

match/share or working capital for federal funding opportunities and to leverage federal and other resources.

To position HSEO to effectively carry out its mission, HSEO respectfully requests your favorable consideration of these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 8, 2023
CONFERENCE ROOM 308
10:00 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 300. This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Biennium 23-25. The Department supports this bill.

We respectfully request that budget items that are in the Executive Budget as well as adjustments proposed in Governor's Message No. 1 be considered for this bill. Operating requests include funds for Bovine Tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle control, and to continue the compost reimbursement program.

Important capital improvement program requests include funds for the New Animal Quarantine Station, Wahiawa Irrigation System, and various repairs and improvements to agricultural infrastructure and departmental facilities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighboring islands.

I am a first-year graduate student at UH Hilo Counseling Psychology.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Akiko Taira

152 Kole St,

Hilo, HI 96720



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 300, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00:a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brenden B. Kinoshita, Administrative Services Manager

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill, specifically, those appropriations within the budget that provide funding for the continued operations of the Department for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025. We also support the Governor's additional budget requests for the Department transmitted to the Legislature via Governor's Message No. 1 (Letter dated February 13, 2023, transmitting proposed changes to the Fiscal Biennium 2023-2025 Executive Budget Request).

Among the Department's budget requests are housekeeping adjustments to provide the necessary appropriation to fully fund salaries for new positions that were budgeted and authorized with a six-month budget delay in hire pursuant to Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022; adjustments to enfold specific appropriations into the Department's base operating budget; and other adjustments to optimize delivery of high-quality legal services in accordance with the Department's mission.

We thank the Committee for allowing the Department to provide testimony and respectfully ask the Committee to pass this measure with the requested appropriations.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

David Lassner

President

University of Hawai'i

and

Kalbert K. Young

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer

University of Hawai'i System

HB 300 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** HB 300, Relating to the State Budget. This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

As we emerge from the global pandemic and associated economic downturn, we are learning from those experiences and are working to address needs across Hawai'i and within UH. As the state's sole provider of public postsecondary education, we continue to strive to provide quality college and university education and training; create knowledge through research and scholarship; provide service through extension, technical assistance, and training; contribute to the cultural heritage of the community; and respond to state needs. We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to help the people of Hawai'i.

The following table represents all General Funded requests for additional funding. And shows the budget request approved by the Board of Regents at its November 2022 meeting and the current Governor's request, including Governor's Message No. 1 (GM1), dated February 13, 2023. The new requests added in GM1 are highlighted in light green. This table does not include numerous transfers which do not affect the overall General Fund budget and also does not include a request for \$205,000 in additional Special Fund ceiling for the Physician Workforce Assessment Special Fund.

Campus	Description	Board of Regents		Governor's Budget	
		FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$	FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$
Mānoa	General Fund Restoration	\$ 5,600,000	\$ 5,600,000	\$ 5,600,000	\$ 5,600,000
JABSOM	General Fund Restoration	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
Hilo	General Fund Restoration	\$ 3,420,000	\$ 3,420,000	\$ 3,420,000	\$ 3,420,000
West O'ahu	General Fund Restoration	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 1,620,000
System Admin	General Fund Restoration	\$ 5,086,848	\$ 5,086,848	\$ 5,086,848	\$ 5,086,848
Mānoa	Athletics Subsidy Continuation	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000
Hilo	Athletics Subsidy Continuation	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Mānoa	HIMB Full Year Funding	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500
JABSOM	GME Residency Full Year Funding	\$ 1,670,000	\$ 1,670,000	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000
JABSOM	Neighbor Island MD Expansion Continuation	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Mānoa	Hawai'i Promise Expansion	\$ 12,300,000	\$ 12,300,000	\$ 12,300,000	\$ 12,300,000
Hilo	Hawai'i Promise Expansion	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000
West O'ahu	Hawai'i Promise Expansion	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Community Colleges	Hawai'i Promise Continuation	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 3,700,000
Hilo	Security Officers	\$ 313,320	\$ 313,320		
West O'ahu	Security Officers	\$ 30,900	\$ 61,800		
Community Colleges	Security Officers	\$ 693,780	\$ 1,456,938	\$ 693,780	\$ 1,456,938
Hilo	IT Support	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000		
Hilo	Analytical Lab Manager	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000		
West O'ahu	Campus & ACM Support	\$ 162,996	\$ 325,992		
Community Colleges	Early College Expansion	\$ 577,500	\$ 1,212,750		
West O'ahu	Early College Expansion	\$ 90,000	\$ 180,000		
System Admin	Early College Expansion	\$ 90,000	\$ 180,000		
West O'ahu	Student Success Support	\$ 261,252	\$ 522,504		
Community Colleges	Maui College - Health Center	\$ 98,500	\$ 200,250	\$ 98,500	\$ 200,250
Community Colleges	Maui College - Distance Learning	\$ 73,500	\$ 147,750		
Mānoa	Kūlia I Ka Nu'u Undergraduate Research Initiative	\$ 721,600	\$ 1,058,400		
Hilo	Transfer Center	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000		
Hilo	Administration of Justice Program Expansion	\$ 142,000	\$ 142,000		
Hilo	MA Teaching Expansion and Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education	\$ 210,000	\$ 210,000		
Hilo	MA Counseling Psychology	\$ 210,000	\$ 210,000		
Hilo	Career Advising and Internship Admin	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000		
Hilo	CAFNRM Sustainable Agribusiness	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		

Campus	Description	Board of Regents		Governor's Budget	
		FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$	FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$
West O'ahu	Health & Wellness	\$ 147,158	\$ 294,316	\$ 147,158	\$ 294,316
West O'ahu	Teacher Preparation	\$ 70,676	\$ 141,352		
Community Colleges	Winward CC - Incarcerated Students	\$ 125,500	\$ 241,550		
Community Colleges	Hawai'i CC - Incarcerated Students	\$ 37,500	\$ 78,750		
Mānoa	Health Science Initiative	\$ 477,009	\$ 688,473	\$ 477,009	\$ 688,473
Community Colleges	Kapi'olani CC - Allied Health Professions & NI Expansion	\$ 761,000	\$ 761,000	\$ 761,000	\$ 761,000
Community Colleges	Windward CC - CNA Program Support	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000
Community Colleges	Kaua'i CC - Medical Assisting Program Support	\$ 232,000	\$ 232,000	\$ 232,000	\$ 232,000
Community Colleges	Kapi'olani CC - Nursing Clinical Faculty	\$ 259,998	\$ 259,998	\$ 259,998	\$ 259,998
Community Colleges	Hawai'i CC - Nursing Program Maintenance & Expansion	\$ 474,000	\$ 474,000	\$ 474,000	\$ 474,000
Community Colleges	Kaua'i CC - Nursing Faculty	\$ 258,000	\$ 258,000	\$ 258,000	\$ 258,000
Community Colleges	Maui College - Nursing Faculty	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000
Community Colleges	Maui College - CNA to LPN Program Support	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 86,000
Mānoa	UHWO-UHM Nursing Collaboration	\$ 503,000	\$ 503,000	\$ 503,000	\$ 503,000
Mānoa	NAWSON Programs and Training Support	\$ 661,430	\$ 661,430	\$ 661,430	\$ 661,430
Hilo	Nursing Faculty Support	\$ 198,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 198,000
Mānoa	Adjust UHWO-UHM NAWSON Collaboration Request			\$ -	\$ 423,000
Hilo	Adjust UHH School of Nursing Request			\$ 430,306	\$ 461,717
Mānoa	Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health - Training Hubs			\$ 457,000	\$ 457,000
Mānoa	DUPLICATE - UHWO-UHM NAWSON			\$ 628,306	\$ 659,717
Hilo	DUPLICATE - UHH Nursing			\$ 503,000	\$ 926,000
Mānoa	Restore Funds for Previously Unfunded Positions			\$ 6,073,157	\$ 6,073,157
JABSOM	Restore Funds for Previously Unfunded Positions			\$ 926,843	\$ 926,843
Cancer Center	Restore Funds for Previously Unfunded Positions			\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Hilo	Restore Funds for Previously Unfunded Positions			\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
West O'ahu	Restore Funds for Previously Unfunded Positions			\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
	Total	\$ 56,266,967	\$ 59,399,921	\$ 63,698,835	\$ 65,831,187

The top priority for the UH is restoration of our General Fund appropriation to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, continuation of current funding levels for the subsidy to UH’s Athletics programs and specific appropriations made outside of the budget or full-year funding of additions to last year’s budget are also UH priorities.

For new funding, the top initiative is the expansion of the Hawai’i Promise Program to our four-year institutions and additional general fund support for the Promise Program at the Community Colleges, who have had to make up the difference in recent years with institutional funding.

Additionally, requests to help address the current workforce shortage in our healthcare industry will not only assist with employing Hawai’i’s citizens in good-paying jobs but will also benefit those who receive healthcare.

The following table delineates the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests for UH. Similar to the operating table, this shows both the Board-approved budget request and the Governor’s current request. New entries from GM1 are highlighted in light green. These projects are GO Bond funded, except where otherwise noted.

Campus	Description	Board of Regents		Governor's Budget	
		FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$	FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$
System Admin	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (GO Bonds)	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
System Admin	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (General Funds)			\$ 30,000,000	\$ 30,000,000
Hilo	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (GO Bonds)	\$ 17,500,000	\$ 26,500,000	\$ 17,500,000	\$ 26,500,000
Community Colleges	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (GO Bonds)	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Community Colleges	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (General Funds)			\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000
West O’ahu	Renew, Improve, and Modernize (GO Bonds)	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 3,500,000
Mānoa	PV Rooftop and Canopies and various Energy Efficiency Projects	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
Community Colleges	Minor CIP (GO Bonds)	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000		
Community Colleges	Minor CIP (General Funds)			\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
Mānoa	Assessment & Feasibility of Hamilton Library	\$ 6,500,000			
West O’ahu	Road B Entry Plaza	\$ 5,500,000		\$ 5,500,000	
Community Colleges	Kapi’olani CC - Replace AC System (6930 Ohelo)	\$ 15,000,000		\$ 15,000,000	
Community Colleges	Kaua’i CC - Upgrade Fire Alarm System	\$ 8,500,000		\$ 8,500,000	

Campus	Description	Board of Regents		Governor's Budget	
		FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$	FY24 \$\$\$	FY25 \$\$\$
Mānoa	Mini Master Plan Phase 3 - Kuykendall Hall		\$ 5,000,000		
West O'ahu	Campus Center Phase II		\$ 49,000,000		
Community Colleges	Windward CC - Repair/Replace HVAC (5988 Imiloa)	\$ 11,000,000		\$ 11,000,000	
Mānoa	Athletics	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 18,000,000		
Community Colleges	Kapi'olani CC - Renovate Building (6920 Kokio)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
Mānoa	Admin Office & Parking		\$ 8,000,000		
Community Colleges	Honolulu CC - Technology Renovations Phase 2	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
Mānoa	Holmes Hall	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 6,000,000
Community Colleges	Hawai'i CC - Manono Campus Development	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 2,000,000	
Mānoa	Waikīkī Aquarium Seawall Repair	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
	Total	\$ 262,500,000	\$ 296,000,000	\$ 189,000,000	\$ 161,000,000

Renew, Improve, and Modernize (“RIM”) Projects are the UH’s top priority, as these funds help to address the UH’s deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$863 million. The other projects in this list help to protect health and safety, protect and maintain existing infrastructure and system investments, and support current and funded research activity.

We look forward to working with the Legislature throughout this Session and thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

March 8, 2023

Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 300. This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The mission of the Office of Elections is to provide secure, accessible, and convenient election services to all citizens statewide. Our office is responsible for the printing and counting of ballots and voter education. We work cooperatively with the Offices of the County Clerks which are responsible for voter registration, mailing and receipt of ballots, voter service centers, and places of deposit.

For this biennium, we are asking for funding of \$6,169,276, for fiscal year 2023-2024, and \$2,470,761 for 2024-2025. This request includes the cost of the voting system contract for the 2024 Elections and a matching requirement to receive \$1 million in federal funding.

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
HB 300	3,650,968	2,470,761
GM 1	<u>2,518,308</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$6,169,276</u>	<u>\$2,470,761</u>

Voting System Contract

The voting system contract is critical to the administration and conduct of elections for both the State and Counties. Without a voting system, there can be no election. The goods and services provided in the voting system contract are

for the ballot printing and mailing, and operation and maintenance of the voting equipment, including:

- Ballot paper
- Accessible alternate format ballots
- Printing services with quality control
- Addressing, assembling, and sorting mail ballot packets through a mailing house
- Set up, maintenance, and storage of the voting equipment
- Operating the voting equipment scan and tabulate ballots at the counting centers
- Supporting and troubleshooting voting equipment at the voter service centers
- Ballot tracking for voters to check or receive alerts that their ballot packet has been created and then that the ballot has been received and accepted for counting

We are asking that the Legislature fund the full amount of the contract and allow the expense to be prorated, pursuant to HRS §11-110(a)(1), with the Offices of the County Clerks following each election.

The 2024 Elections will be the third statewide elections conducted by mail. The switch from polling place elections to elections by mail impacted our budget in various ways. Two significant changes were implemented through Act 136 SLH 2019 which required the Office of Elections to consolidate ballot mailing services on behalf of the counties, and to share previously county-only expenses with the counties equally.

Historically in a polling place model of elections, the Office of Elections was responsible for the operation of the polling places, and the Counties were responsible for absentee voting, including ballot mailing and early walk-in voting. The State and Counties shared the costs of counting ballots, including the voting system contract and postage for absentee mail ballots.

Since the implementation of elections by mail, our office continues to be responsible for printing and counting ballots and share these costs with the Counties. However, elections by mail resulted in the State becoming responsible

for 50% of the Counties' expenses related to ballot mailing, walk-in voting locations (voter service centers), and places of deposit. Costs associated with these expenses had been unknown to our office as they were not shared expenses in the polling place elections model.

The cost drivers of our budget have fundamentally changed with the migration to elections by mail and any cost savings were offset by us taking on 50% fiscal responsibility for what used to be solely County concerns.

Matching Funds

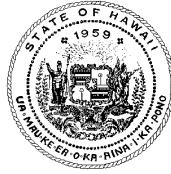
Our office is also requesting \$200,000 as a state-matching requirement to access \$1 million in federal funding through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In the past, it has been permissible to access federal funds from HAVA through in-kind matches above and beyond the maintenance of effort requirement established in 2002. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission which administers the grants has now moved to require the State to deposit the match into our federal HAVA account, rather than an in-kind match, to access an additional \$1 million.

This funding, totaling \$1.2 million, will be used to improve the statewide voter registration system. The statewide voter registration system is the database of the voter rolls used to enter and maintain voter records, including mailing and receipt of ballots. The State houses and supports the statewide voter registration system while the Offices of the County Clerks are the main users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 300.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

RYAN YAMANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB300, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the members of the committee.

The purpose of House Bill 300 is to appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvements costs for agencies in the Executive Branch for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025. The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) strongly **supports** HB300 as it relates to our four biennium budget requests.

1. HRD102 – Addition of \$4,305,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,225,000 in fiscal year 2025 to address increasing workers' compensation costs. Workers' compensation is a statutorily mandated benefit with penalties and fees assessed to employers who do not timely pay their obligations.
2. HRD102 – Addition of \$74,976 in fiscal year 2024 and \$79,896 in fiscal year 2025 for full-year funding of two half-year funded positions authorized by Act 248, SLH 2022 for the Employee Classification Branch. Both positions were established and filled in January 2023.
3. HRD102 – Addition of 1.0 permanent FTE and \$52,344 in fiscal year 2024 and \$108,521 in fiscal year 2025 for the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office. The EEO Office provides much needed subject matter expertise for EEO matters to employees, human resources officers, civil rights staff, supervisors, managers, and administrators of Executive Branch departments. EEO will be able to provide greater training regarding disability discrimination including conducting interactive processes for reasonable accommodations; protected class-based harassment; and conducting effective EEO investigations. Additional staff will also enable the EEO Program to provide more in-depth guidance and assistance to departments on

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

addressing EEO issues with the objective of achieving greater consistency and compliance with EEO laws, regulations, and rules across the Executive Branch. This additional position will bring the total number of employees in the EEO office to three.

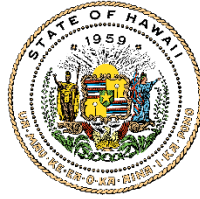
In addition to the 1.00 FTE, we are requesting an additional \$1,500 in FY24 only for the computer to accompany this new position. This was inadvertently left off our request.

4. HRD191 – Addition of \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 to secure funding for the department-wide replacement of all existing DHRD desktop computers and networking switch gear equipment. A majority of the department's existing desktop computers were purchased in 2014 and are approaching the ten-year mark of continuous use. The failure rate of these units has increased over the past few years to the point where replacement units are becoming scarce, with replacement parts in short supply. Furthermore, the current units will not run more up-to-date, secure, and modern computer operating systems (specifically Windows 11).

Mahalo for your consideration of our biennium budget requests. We are aware of the challenges ahead and remain committed to work with the Legislature to seek solutions that effectively balance short and long-term priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 300 proposes to appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, along with the adjustments by way of Governor's Message No. 1, as follows:**

Operating Budget:

- LNR 906 / LNR 908: Transfer 2 positions (#92391C Culture Resource Specialist III and #92392C Culture Resource Specialist II) and funds (\$72,000) from LNR 906 to new program identification for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), LNR 908, Means of Financing (MOF) A.
- LNR 906: Full year funding for Informational Technology Band B position, \$32,310, MOF A.
- LNR 101: Add Planner V position and funds in the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), to work on enforcing land use regulations in the Conservation District: FY 24: \$60,216 (Salary/Fringe: \$56,216; Equipment: \$4,000); FY 25: \$116,466 (Salary/Fringe), MOF B.
- LNR 101: Add 11 positions (10 Program Specialist IV and 1 Office Assistant IV) and funds to support Climate Justice and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: FY 24: \$323,724 (Salary); \$44,000 (Equipment); FY 25: \$671,208 (Salary), MOF A.

- LNR 906: Add 2 positions (Account Clerk V and Accountant IV) and funds to provide fiscal support and assistance to the Climate Change program: FY 24: \$58,944 (Salary); \$8,000 (Equipment); FY 25: \$122,772 (Salary), MOF A.
- LNR 172: Restore operating funds that were reduced due to budget concerns surrounding the pandemic, \$289,000, MOF A.
- LNR 404: Add 4 positions (Engineer IV, Planner V, Engineering Technician V and Secretary I) and funds to assist with the increase in workload attributed to the Navy's Red Hill contamination: FY24: \$117,210; FY25: \$234,393, MOF A.
- LNR 908: To make permanent the additional funding provided in Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022 for KIRC for on-island operations and health and safety programs, \$400,000, MOF A.
- LNR 401: Add Administrative Specialist IV position and funds to manage the Sport Fish Restoration Grant: FY24: \$49,948 (Salary/Fringe); FY25: \$103,477 (Salary/Fringe), MOF N.
- LNR 401: Add 2 temporary Aquatic Biologist positions and funds for the Protected Species Program to support projects related to monk seals, sea turtles, false-killer whales, and oceanic whitetip sharks: FY24: \$99,896 (Salary/Fringe); FY25: \$206,955 (Salary/Fringe), MOF P.
- LNR 804: To make permanent the additional funding provided in Act 248, SLH 2022, for the Outdoor Recreation Section / Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Program to provide outdoor recreation for a variety of user groups and preserve and protect ancient and historic trails and pathways, and access to public lands and resources, \$2,000,000, MOF A.
- LNR 401: Request operating funds for fence to protect sensitive Waianae aquatic habitat, for FY24 only, \$250,000, MOF A.
- LNR 407: Add funds for watershed protection needed to safeguard forested watersheds in the face of threats such as invasive species and climate change, \$3,100,000, MOF A.
- LNR 804: Add 4 positions (3 Trails and Access Specialist IV and 1 Forestry and Wildlife Technician IV) and funds for Forest and Outdoor Recreation to create greater capacity to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources: FY24: \$104,964 (Salary): FY25: \$208,928 (Salary), MOF A.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget:

For the Capital Improvements Program budget, the Department respectfully requests that this measure be amended to replace the two current lump sum requests with individual projects indicated in Governor's Message No. 1. The list of the Department's project requests is attached.

Additional Governor's Message Items:

The Department respectfully requests your favorable consideration for the following budget items submitted as additional Governor's Message Items:

LNR 801, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) Operating Budget:

- Increase the ceiling for the Boating Special Fund expenditure appropriation ceiling in the amount of \$3,849,034 (MOF B). The ceiling increase will allow DOBOR to proceed with various statewide repair and maintenance (R&M) projects that will upgrade its facilities to improve the health and safety of the boaters and public that use DOBOR’s facilities.

The Boating Special Fund is the primary source of funding for LNR 801 and funds the operating costs of the Division. DOBOR has recently implemented an across-the-board fee increase that raises all fees that it assesses users of its facilities and the state’s ocean waters. Additionally, DOBOR has been actively converting monthly revocable permits to long term leases. DOBOR would like to increase its ceiling in order to address needed repair and maintenance projects as well as additional operating costs. The additional spending authority will allow DOBOR to proceed with the various statewide projects that benefit its users and constituents.

LNR 802, State of Hawaii Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) Operating Budget:

- Full year funding for the 14 added positions in FY23 supplemental budget, \$614,280, (MOF A) for the following positions:

POS. NO.	POSITION	SALARY
92326C	Assistant Administrator	55,000
92327C	Archaeologist IV	62,500
92328C	Archaeologist IV	62,500
92329C	Archaeologist IV	62,500
92330C	Archaeologist IV	62,500
92331C	Archaeologist III	37,500
92332C	Archaeologist II	25,000
92333C	Architectural Historian	50,000
92334C	Architectural Historian	50,000
92335C	Historian	35,000
92336C	Cultural Historian	37,500
92337C	Burial Site Specialist	37,500
92338C	Staff Services Assistant I	20,550
92340C	Library Assistant	16,230

- Restore funding for operating costs reduced due to the covid-19 pandemic, \$103,424 (MOF A). These funds are critical to the day-to-day operations of the program.

LNR 806, Division of State Parks Operating Budget:

- Increase the special fund ceiling request for FY24 State Parks Special Fund from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000 (MOF B). The additional \$4,000,000 ceiling increase is needed for statewide repairs and maintenance for contractual and non-contractual repairs, alterations, and maintenance to equipment, buildings, and grounds. The additional ceiling is also needed to cover the required special fund assessments.

LNR 909, Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) Operating Budget:

- Amendment to the Executive Biennium Budget Request for MKSOA:
 - Add the following 6 positions and salaries for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 (MOF A):

POSITION	SALARY
Executive Director	160,000
Project Director	140,000
Administrative Services Officer	110,000
Program Specialist	70,000
Program Specialist	70,000
Executive Assistant	57,000

- Add funds in other current expenses to continue the startup and transition planning for the MKSOA, \$13,393,000, MOF A.

The Department offers the following comments.

- The Department’s mission is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai‘i’s unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai‘i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.
- Projects were selected and prioritized based on public safety, compliance, and public trust resource protection, in accordance with statutory mandates that guide the Department’s vision, mission, goals and objectives to manage resources for the benefit of the public, and to protect the resources and the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 1 FOR DLNR CIP BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

PRGM ID	PROJECT TITLE	MOF	FY24	FY25
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A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LNR141	ROCKFALL AND FLOOD MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	A	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR172	KONA STORM KULA FOREST TRAIL REPAIR, MAUI	A	400,000	0
LNR172	MAUNAWILI ACQUISITION, OAHU	C	7,000,000	0

D. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LNR401	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX (SUBCOMM LOT), OAHU	A	500,000	4,000,000
LNR401	FACILITY RENOVATION AT THE ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER (AFRC) ON SAND ISLAND, OAHU	A	350,000	2,650,000
LNR402	DOFAW OAHU BASEYARD IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	1,000,000	0
LNR402	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	A	700,000	0
LNR402	HILO OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT, HAWAII	A	185,000	0
LNR402	LEHUA FACILITIES RESTORATION (WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE, DANGEROUS METALS REMOVAL, SOLAR)	A	100,000	0
LNR404	DEEP MONITOR WELLS, STATEWIDE	C	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR405	DOCARE MAUI BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATION, MAUI	C	400,000	4,400,000
LNR407	WATERSHED PROTECTION AND INITIATIVES, STATEWIDE	C	5,000,000	5,000,000
LNR407	WEST MAUI TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, MAUI	C	350,000	350,000
LNR407	PUA LOKE BASEYARD ELECTRICAL, GAS TANK, AND ROOF REPAIRS, KAUAI	A	200,000	0
LNR407	KOOLAU ENDANGERED TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, OAHU	C	150,000	0
LNR407	MAUI RARE SPECIES EXTINCTION PREVENTION FENCES, MAUI	C	750,000	0

H. CULTURE AND RECREATION

LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	C	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	N	0	100,000
LNR804	ALAKAI SWAMP BOARDWALK REPAIR, KAUAI	A	200,000	0
LNR806	STATE PARKS HAZARD MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, WAIMEA CANYON LOOKOUTS, KAUAI	C	1,000,000	1,000,000
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	C	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	N	500,000	500,000

K. GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUPPORT

LNR101	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS, HILO, HAWAII	A	12,500,000	0
LNR101	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	6,000,000	0

Subtotals by MOF	A	17,135,000	8,650,000
	C	27,650,000	16,750,000
	N	500,000	600,000

TOTALS - ALL MOF 45,285,000 26,000,000

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

March 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 300

TITLE: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

DESCRIPTION: Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) strongly supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the line item on pages 51-52 of this measure that would preserve the established operating budget and position counts for the Public Utilities Commission Special Fund, while also increasing the Commission’s ceiling in order to expend funds from the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount and the Hydrogen Fueling System Subaccount. It is imperative that the Commission and Consumer Advocate maintain a sufficient level of funding to ensure the continued protection of the public interest and provision of essential utility services.

Notably, the ceiling increase of \$1.5M as contemplated on pages 51-52 of this measure would allow the Commission to expend funds to support the Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Program (\$750k) and the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Program (\$750k). This is necessary for the Commission to operate the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. 300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jade T. Butay, and I am the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in **strong support** of the DLIR's requests contained in HB300 as well as those contained in GM 1 Proposed changes to the FB 2023-25 Executive Budget.

The DLIR requests contained in HB300 include full-year funding for positions funded for a half year in Fiscal Year 23: five positions in the Office of Community Services to facilitate the Grant-In-Aid awards made by the 2022 Legislature and one position (Office Assistant) in the Wage Standards Division for the Clerical Services and Intake and Certification Branch.

HB300 DLIR requests also include funding for the continuation of the Immigrant Resource Center program funded by Act 256 (SLH, 2022). Act 256 provided funding for staff and re-establishment of the Immigrant Resource Center with an Outreach component. However, the funding is limited to the appropriation made by the Act and non-recurring.

GM1 contains the following requests:

- \$36M to augment \$50M for the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Project. A significant investment of state funds is required for Hawaii's UI Technology Modernization Initiative (HUI MOD) to materialize. The additional funds are required to procure and implement a full-scale modernized UI technology platform.
- \$5M to reimburse the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for

recovering overpayments made fraudulently or in error to individuals under the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program.

- \$1.25M to provide full-year funding for positions and statutorily required responsibilities for the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program (Act 296, SLH, 2022). Act 296 established the program to be administered by a newly created Hawaii Retirement Savings Board that would provide a state-facilitated payroll deduction individual retirement savings plan with mandatory employer participation to private sector employees who do not have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans. The program was administratively placed in the DLIR, while the operational funding is limited to the appropriation made by the Act, is non-recurring, and no funds exist for the operations in the upcoming biennium.
- To provide full-year funding for a new Labor Law Enforcement Specialist in the Wage Standards Division that was funded for a half year in FY2022-23.
- \$25,000 for the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB) to increase salaries for the Staff Attorney and a Hearings Officer to hire and retain individuals with experience and be competitive with the public sector employers.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

by
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 and Via Video Conference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 300, which appropriates funding for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025 for the operating budget and capital improvement program (CIP) under the 'Steady State' executive budget submittal. Specifically for PSD, the bill appropriates the following for the operating budget:

FY 2023-24: 3,021.60 permanent positions and 46.0 temporary positions
\$316,898,669 for all means of financing.

FY 2024-25: 2,606.60 permanent positions and 46.0 temporary positions
\$312,429,667 for all means of financing.

And for CIP, \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and \$20,500,000 for fiscal year 2025. Additionally, PSD submitted for consideration funding requests both for the operating budget and CIP under Governor Green's FB2023-2025 budget submission.

In addition, PSD provides **comments** regarding the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission's (HCSOC, the Commission) request for funding. It is PSD's understanding from reviewing Hawai'i Revised Statute §353L and working closely with the Commission that the Commission is required to fulfill specific mandates, which in turn requires staffing and funding resources. To that end, the Commission cannot be expected to fulfill its mandate if the appropriate levels of staffing and funding resources are not provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony/comments on HB 300.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

by:
Dwight Sakai
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 300, Relating to the State Budget

Purpose: Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports the funding provisions in this measure relating to the Community Outreach Court. The Judiciary's Community Outreach Court has successfully provided services to more than 465 individuals, representing 7,600 cases that have been cleared and 5,600 hours of community service being completed. The Community Outreach Court sessions on O'ahu are being held in Wai'anae, Kaneohe, Kaka'ako and plans are being made to expand to hold sessions in Waikiki. On Maui, a session is held in Kihei.

The Judiciary respectfully requests an amendment to the mechanism for appropriating funds for the Judiciary's administration of the Community Outreach Court program. Currently, in the first year of each fiscal biennium, the Judiciary's share of funding for the program is provided through an appropriation first made to the Office of the Public Defender, a portion of which is then transferred to the Judiciary. For improved fiscal efficiency, we request that the Judiciary's share of this funding be deleted from the General Appropriations Act and replaced by

an amendment to the Judiciary Appropriations Act of 2023 (House Bill No. 382 and Senate Bill No. 482) to add the Judiciary's share of Community Outreach Court funding to the program appropriation for the First Judicial Circuit (program ID JUD310), provided that any appropriation made to the Judiciary under this measure or the Judiciary Appropriations Act to administer and operate the Community Outreach Court program does not supplant the Judiciary's other existing funding and budget requests. To clarify, we do not want the Community Outreach Court funding to come out of the First Circuit's other existing or requested funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of

HB 300 **RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) supports HB 300, which provides operating and capital improvement appropriations and authorizations for Executive Branch agencies and programs in Fiscal Biennium (FB) 2023-25. We request your favorable consideration of adjustments to the budget as submitted in Governor's Message GM 1, which includes three CIP line items for NELHA to assist us in carrying out our duties and includes:

BED146 - \$17,317,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 for construction of three new roads, Island of Hawaii. The total scope of this project includes the construction of three of five new roads and is a pre-requisite for future new land development at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park) which NELHA administers. Total for the five roads

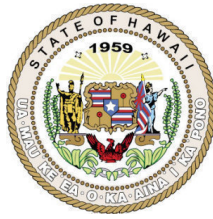
estimated at \$31.7M and approximately 1.1 miles in length. Three of the five roads have already been designed and are “shovel-ready”. When completed these roads will provide access to approximately 100 additional acres of available land in HOST Park. The total construction cost includes design, archaeological monitoring, construction engineering services, HELCO service fees, construction management and contingencies.

BED146 - \$1,900,000 in Reimbursable General Obligation Bonds for FY24 to undertake improvements to the seawater system, Island of Hawaii. Upgrades and maintenance work will include NELHA’s internal electrical grid, pumps, and associated hardware as well as equipment control and monitoring software which provides surface and deep-sea water throughout HOST Park. This work will facilitate the development of additional renewable energy systems including photovoltaic as well as the ability to transfer power among pump stations. In addition, newer equipment is now much more efficient in terms of power consumption per gallon pumped and thereby reduce or stabilize seawater costs to businesses in the park.

BED146 - \$1,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed offshore research corridor, Island of Hawaii. The waters offshore of HOST Park offer an ideal location for testing innovative underwater OTEC, conservation, advanced energy, offshore aquaculture, and ocean monitoring concepts to address climate change. The EIS for the proposed offshore research corridor would describe specific activities that could take place in these waters and provide a path for expedited approval for short-term, small-scale, non-commercial demonstration or research projects for OTEC, offshore aquaculture, energy, ocean monitoring and conservation activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-2562

Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Before the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 8, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 300 and offers the following:

This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

With the passage of Act 278, 2022 and the Legislature established the DLE for the specific purpose of consolidating and administering criminal law enforcement and investigation functions of the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation, certain investigations functions of the Department of the Attorney General, and the Office of Homeland Security with the Department of Defense. While the DLE operational budget is included in the bill, the DLE still needs the full funding for administrative personnel services for the first half of the fiscal year and the requested appropriation for the necessary information technology and the required Statewide Law Enforcement Training Center should be added at an appropriate time during the legislative session.

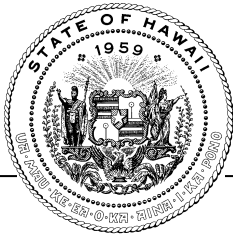
Critical to the creation of the DLE is the establishment of a state of the art comprehensive, integrated, interoperable, synchronized, real-time network of law enforcement information, data, and communications systems used by the DLE that

includes a computer-aided dispatch system, records management system, officer mobile data systems, body-worn and mobile cameras, geographic information system, vehicle location and mapping systems, analytics, crime analysis and real time crime center applications, and other law enforcement systems and interfaces. The integrated information system must comply with all applicable industry standards including, but not limited to those established by the Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council, Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program, Law Enforcement National Data Exchange, Law Enforcement, Regional Data Exchange, American National Standards Institute, Telecommunications Industry Association, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, National Emergency Number Association, Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services Security Policy, National Fire Protection Association, the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local codes, standards, and all federal, state, and county laws.

Act 278 also provided for the establishment of a statewide law enforcement training center for the DLE and federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies, upon request, where law enforcement officers will be trained to the highest standards and level of core and continuing education and training to ensure that the individuals trained here have the knowledge and skills to protect and serve the public.

The DLE would like to request that at an appropriate time, the full funding for administrative personnel services for the first half of the fiscal year and the requested appropriation for the necessary information technology and the required Statewide Law Enforcement Training Center be added to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports HB 300. This appropriates the funds for the OPSD operating budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal year 2024-2025, which includes additional funds for the Planning Program Manager for the full year in the amount of \$62,172 for FY24 and FY25.

To better fulfill OPSD's mission to guide the development of the State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and social needs of Hawaii's people, we would like to request your favorable consideration of the following additional budget adjustments that were relayed in Governor's Message #1. These items fund core OPSD activities as set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §225M-2 and enable OPSD to directly support the Governor, Legislature, and agencies through sound planning to promote affordability, climate resilience, and government efficiency and effectiveness.

CIP Requests

- BED144 - \$2,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY24 and FY25 to support planning of state and county transit-oriented development projects, including infrastructure assessments, mixed-use development, and affordable housing, pursuant to HRS §225M-2(b)(10). The promotion of mixed-use development and affordable housing within transit-oriented development areas across the state is one of the most viable means for addressing the need for affordable housing. Since the establishment of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development, the State has appropriated capital improvement project funds to support planning of transit-oriented development projects in all four counties.

Additional Operating Requests

- BED144/DA - \$17,665 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for personal services adjustments for the Land Use Commission, pursuant to HRS §225M-2(c). This is payroll reconciliation for salary differentials not reflected in prior fiscal years.
- BED144/DA - \$25,060 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for increased travel budget for the Land Use Commission, pursuant to HRS §225M-2(c). The Land Use Commission holds meetings in person across the state and travel costs are increasing due to inflation. Due to drastic increases in the cost of travel, rental cars and lodging, the LUC will incur an estimated 30% increase in travel expenses across the board.
- BED144/PL - \$254,275 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 for restoration of funding for Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 122605) and funds for Other Current Expenses reduced pursuant to Act 88, SLH 2021, pursuant to HRS §225M-2(b). Funding for the Special Plans Project Analyst was removed during the COVID-19 economic downturn. OPSD budget has been reduced over the years but has added the Environmental Review Program (former OEQC), which along with inflation, has reduced OPSD's ability for the current budget to support the Office's programs.
- BED144/PL - \$279,354 in General Funds for FY24 and \$418,008 in FY25 to establish the OPSD Statewide Sustainability Branch, pursuant to HRS §225M-2(b)(9), adding 1.00 Permanent FTE and funds for a Planner V, 2.00 Temporary FTE and funds for Sustainability and Climate Specialist positions, and 1.00 Temporary FTE and funds for a Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Specialist position, and operating funds. The Statewide Sustainability Branch was enacted in Act 45, SLH 2020, but remains unstaffed and unbudgeted.
- BED144/PZ - \$500,000 in General Funds for FY24 and FY25 to increase services on a fee to provide matching federal funds to support the administration and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, pursuant to HRS Chapter 205A and HRS §225M-2(b)(6). The State is responsible for meeting a one-to-one matching requirement to remain federally approved and eligible for federal funding. The CZM Program receives \$2.5 million in Federal funds annually. The current general fund budget for the program is \$238,345 in personnel and other current expenses. A federal evaluation expressed concern that the State's continued lack of state funding for the CZM Program endangers the state's ability to implement the federally approved Hawaii CZM Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: gems.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3868
Fax: (808) 587-3896

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 300, which provides the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (“HGIA”) (BED 138) the ability to expend its special funds under its lending ceiling, bond ceiling and operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Additionally, included in Governor’s Message No. 1, is a \$25.0 million request in general funds for deposit into the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund to provide much needed loan capital to finance community-led, community solar projects; clean energy technology, and attract private capital, through credit enhancements, to assist with the estimated \$3.75 billion financing gap needed to decrease the energy burden for our disadvantaged communities.

These funds will allow HGIA to continue its green infrastructure financing programs and provide underserved ratepayers options to mitigate the 30% increase in energy bills experienced over the past year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 300.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/08/2023
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 300, which makes appropriations for the operating and capital improvement budgets of the Executive Branch for Fiscal Biennium 2023-2025.

The proposed budget maintains the operations of the public school system, promotes health and safety, and advances the educational services provided by the Department to address the academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and physical needs of our students.

As submitted, H.B. No. 300 represents the budget as approved by the previous Executive Administration. The table below shows the proposed operating budget for FY 24 and FY 25 by EDN, for general funds only:

EDN	EDN Description	FY 24* (HB 300)	FY 25* (HB 300)
100	School-Based Budgeting	\$1,247,959,850	\$1,257,632,931
150	Special Education and Student Support Services	\$436,112,222	\$444,000,205
200	Instructional Support	\$77,443,439	\$78,848,737

300	State Administration	\$61,981,412	\$63,226,750
400	School Support	\$251,845,885	\$254,914,079
500	School Community Services	\$4,980,235	\$5,075,127
	Total General Funds	\$2,080,323,043	\$2,103,697,829

*Excludes EDN 450 School Facilities Authority and EDN 700 Early Learning

The Department is appreciative of the initial level of support this measure provides. In total, however, the proposed operating budget for FY 24 and FY 25 provides less general funds than the Department's current base budget for FY 23.

As budget discussions progress, the Department has also identified several high-leverage initiatives that will help to accelerate and move the Department forward into the future and provide the best support for students. These strategies include: supporting vulnerable populations, ensuring students are workforce ready, strengthening secondary math supports, providing leadership development opportunities, aligning kindergarten to high school curriculum, supporting middle-level education, and bolstering teacher recruitment. These budget requests are under consideration by the new Executive Administration.

The Department welcomes discussions with the Committee regarding these additional operating needs.

Regarding the capital improvement projects (CIP) budget, H.B. No. 300 provides support to address the Department's most critical capital projects. The following table summarizes the Department's CIP requests by source of funding.

EDN	CIP Request Description	FY 24 (HB 300)	FY 25 (HB 300)
100	Lump Sum CIP – Deferred Maintenance Projects (General Funds)	\$96,000,000	\$96,000,000
100	Lump Sum CIP – Instructional (General Obligation Bond Funds)	\$2,500,000	\$11,000,000
100	Lump Sum CIP – Compliance (General Funds)	\$22,000,000	\$22,000,000
100	Lump Sum CIP – Capacity (General Obligation Bond Funds)	\$147,300,000	\$74,750,000
100	Lump Sum CIP – Support (General Obligation Bond Funds)	\$26,850,000	\$29,000,000
100	Lump Sum – Federal Grants (General Obligation Bond Funds)	\$22,600,000	\$80,000,000
100	Lump Sum - Federal Grants (Other Federal Funds)	\$90,400,000	\$320,000,000
100	Lump Sum – Health and Safety (General Funds)	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
400	Lump Sum – Office of Information Technology Service (General Funds)	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

	Total CIP (by all sources of funding)	\$414,650,000	\$639,750,000
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For CIP requests:

- Deferred Maintenance Projects are for building and site repair and maintenance, electrical and infrastructure improvements, hazardous materials remediation, and various renovations to school facilities;
- The Instructional category of projects provide modernizations, renovations, and new facilities at existing campuses to support instructional needs. Some of these projects are science building and special education classroom improvements;
- Projects under the Compliance category address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or Title IX gender equity federal laws or regulations;
- The Capacity category provides additional learning space to alleviate overcrowded classrooms and schools. Some of the projected areas are West Oahu and Central Maui. The Department is also requesting funds to purchase the St. Francis School in Manoa to supplement educational programs and possibly reduce the need for leased office space that the Department currently occupies;
- The Support category provides work at school administration facilities, libraries, food service, and athletics. Some of these projects are multipurpose classrooms and various athletic upgrades such as gymnasiums and track and fields; The U.S. Department of Defense Federal Grant program provides a unique opportunity for the Department to leverage 80 percent of federal funds against 20 percent of state matching funds to address schools on military property. The next slate of schools to be addressed are: Shafter, Hickam, Nimitz, Lehua, and Wheeler Elementary schools as well as Wheeler Middle School;
- Under the Health and Safety category, heat abatement, safety and security vulnerability upgrades, and traffic and pedestrian safety are acknowledged needs at schools across the state. The funds are for assessments and to address solutions on an ongoing basis; and
- Office of Information Technology Service projects include bells and paging replacements. Projects will address schools needing improvements to, or replacements of, their bell and paging systems.

For budget requests (operating and/or CIP) related to EDN 450 and EDN 700, the Department defers to the School Facilities Authority and Executive Office on Early Learning, respectively.

As our budget makes its way through the legislative process, we look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to shape the future of quality education for our students in Hawaii's public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

by:
Dr. Erin E. Harbinson
Director, Criminal Justice Research Institute

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 300, Relating to the State Budget

Purpose: Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Judiciary's Position:

The Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI) **supports** the funding requests made by the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in HB 300 – Relating to the State Budget. HCSOC was established in the same law as CJRI—Act 179 (2019). Though each organization has separate duties and missions, both are focused on providing information important to improve the criminal justice system. CJRI will establish a pretrial database and reporting system to provide data informing HCSOC's work, and their commission requires resources to make recommendations that will improve the corrections system. CJRI defers to the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, regarding the funds necessary to staff and operate the HCSOC in order to fulfill its duties under law.

The national landscape on correctional oversight commissions demonstrates a diverse range of organizations tasked with reviewing and reporting out on correctional systems. A review of these oversight bodies by Deitch (2020) found that one of the biggest challenges in

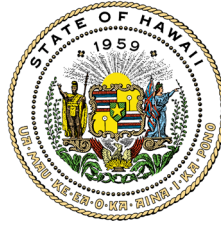
these commissions was acquiring the funds and resources necessary to conduct their work, which includes site visits, investigations, reporting, and many other necessary tasks¹. Without adequate staffing and resources, they are unable to improve the criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ **Michele Y Deitch**, *But Who Oversees the Overseers?: The Status of Prison and Jail Oversight in the United States*, 47 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW 207 (Summer 2020).

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

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



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DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 300
Relating to The STATE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: March 8, 2023
10:00 AM

Room Number: 308
Via Videoconference

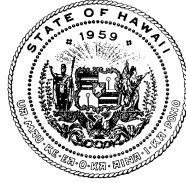
EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, is in strong support of our operating budget as outlined in the Program Appropriations, HTH 904, Page 35 No. 25 of HB 300, Relating to the State Budget.

Fiscal Implications: This measure appropriates funds for FY 2023-2024 and for FY 2024-2025 for the EOA's operating budget.

Purpose and Justification: As Hawai'i's aging population continues to grow the need for investment in long term care services and supports increases. Sufficient appropriations are required to assure the health, safety, and independence of our kūpuna. We appreciate your consideration of this bill.

Recommendation: We respectfully requests your support of EOA's operating budget as outlined on Page 35, No. 25 in HTH 904 of HB300.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB300
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 8, 2023

Room Number: Videoconference/308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Sufficient appropriations are required for the Department of Health (DOH)
2 to implement statutory obligations. Insufficient funding will jeopardize public health at large
3 and for vulnerable populations.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports HB300, in particular where priorities identified in
5 the Governor's Executive Budget Request have been funded at requested levels.

6 The DOH's guiding principles include:

- 7 • Implementing and maintaining core public health functions, including assessment, policy,
8 and assurance,
- 9 • Satisfying federal mandates, including court-ordered settlements,
- 10 • Directing resources at problems that pose the greatest risk to the public's health and the
11 environment,
- 12 • Dispersing appropriate and cost-effective resources geographically, and
- 13 • Providing services of last resort for uninsurable populations and where there is no other
14 satisfactory alternative.

15 The DOH supports the Governor's Executive Budget Request and wishes to highlight several
16 priorities by Administration:

17 General Administration

- 1 • OR-2, OR-3, OR-4 Improved neighbor island district health office infrastructure to
2 enhance local public health operations (11.00/\$694,176 in FY24 and 11.00/\$720,924 in
3 FY25, A).
- 4 • OR-11, OR-12, OR-13 Improved neighbor island district health office programs to
5 enhance local public health operations (12.00/\$343,062 in FY24 and 12.00/\$712,368 in
6 FY25, A).

7 Behavioral Health Administration

- 8 • OR-6 Request to Increased funding for the Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community
9 Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental
10 Disabilities to respond to enrollment growth; increase provider rates to reflect current
11 costs and address the state's rising minimum wage in order to maintain an adequate
12 provider network; and to invest in the direct support workforce to improve recruitment,
13 retention, and the quality of services. (\$12,900,000 in FY24 and \$14,100,000 in FY25,
14 A). Note that a supplemental Governor's Message requested additional funds to meet
15 100% of expected program need.
- 16 • OR-24, OR-25, OR-26, OR-27, OR-28 Request full year funding for 11.00 positions in
17 the Adult Mental Health Division (\$664,843 in FY24 and \$712,168 in FY25, A).
- 18 • Numerous requests for the expansion of mental health services at the client and
19 community level, including financing for the Certified Community Behavioral Health
20 Clinic on Maui, and \$6M for general child and adolescent mental health.

21 Environmental Health Administration

- 22 • OR-9 Add Funds to fully fund salaries for 4.00 permanent positions, a Food Safety
23 Specialist (FSS) and a Secretary, in the Food and Drug Branch (FDB) (\$230,508 in FY24
24 and \$239,412 in FY25, A).
- 25 • OR-10 Add 1.00 permanent Environmental Management Program Manager, 1.00
26 permanent Secretary, and funds for Environmental Planning Office (2.00/\$73,644 in
27 FY24 and 2.00/\$153,156 in FY25, A).

1 Health Resources Administration

- 2 • OR-7 Add 3 Registered Nurse IV positions for Public Health Nursing Branch-Kauai
3 Section to restore capacity for 3 positions abolished by Act 009, SLH 2020
4 (3.00/\$171,486 in FY24 and 3.00/\$354,636 in FY25, A).
- 5 • OR-8 Add 2 Registered Nurse IV positions and fund unfunded Registered Nurse IV
6 #26191 for Public Health Nursing Branch - Windward Section to restore capacity for
7 positions lost or unfunded by Act 009, SLH 2020 (2.00/\$171,486 in FY24 and
8 2.00/\$354,636 in FY25, A).
- 9 • OR-16 Add 3.00 Positions (Accountant III, Research Statistician V, Statistical Clerk IV)
10 to provide fiscal and statistician functions for OMCCR Administration (3.00/\$181,652 in
11 FY24 and 3.00/\$348,961 in FY25, B).
- 12 • OR-22 Restore State funding for emergency medical services to replace current ARPA
13 appropriation per Act 208, SLH 2021 (\$4,763,0145 for FY24 and \$43,629,646 for FY25,
14 A).

15 Capital Improvement Projects

- 16 • CIP funding is being requested for the Kalaupapa Settlement for the municipal solid
17 waste landfill cover and related site improvements. (FY24-115,000/FY25-2,917,000)
- 18 • CIP funding is being requested for the Hawai'i State Hospital improvements to the
19 Guensberg Building for renovations and improvements. (FY24-3,900,000/FY25-
20 39,000,000)
- 21 • For the State Laboratory Division, CIP funding is being requested for the construction of
22 the Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory. (FY24-11,557,000)
- 23 • Matching CIP funding for the Wastewater Treatment Revolving Fund for Pollution
24 Control, Statewide Project No. 840226 (FY24-3,498,000C/26,016,000N; FY25-
25 5,515,000C/27,573,000N).
- 26 • Matching CIP funding for the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund, Project No. 840227
27 (FY24-3,604,000C/29,028,000N; FY25-6,208,000C/31,038,000N).

1 The Executive biennium budget requests also include trade-off transfer requests which consist of
2 housekeeping adjustments to reduce negative personal services adjustment budget lines and other
3 housekeeping requests to fold in statutorily exempt positions and align the budget to previously
4 acknowledged reorganizations. Federal fund adjustment requests are also being submitted to
5 align the federal budget ceiling with updated actual and anticipated federal fund awards.

6 The DOH continues to address the health of our State through a combination of population
7 health management and strategic partnerships to address the needs of our most vulnerable
8 populations. We look forward to advancing Hawaii's health agenda through the leveraging of
9 resources and capitalizing on health care reform options which support accessible, affordable,
10 and quality health care.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

**In support of
House Bill 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

House Bill 300 appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

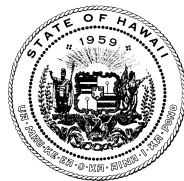
The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. The Commission has been successful in providing capacity building assistance to members of the commission including Department of Transportation, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Hawai'i Energy Office, County of Hawai'i, County of Kauai and the Department of Health through the placement of AmeriCorps VISTA members. To enhance the Commission's support and to meet the challenges of climate change facing the state, we humbly request the following additional budget adjustments that were relayed in Governor's Message #1. These items directly support the State's climate goals through providing professional capacity for a clean, equitable and resilient Hawai'i.

Additional Operating Requests

LNR 101: Add 11 positions (10 Program Specialist IV and 1 Office Assistant IV) and funds to support Climate Justice and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: FY 24: \$323,724 (Salary); \$44,000 (Equipment); FY 25: \$671,208 (Salary), MOF A.

LNR 906: Add 2 positions (Account Clerk V and Accountant IV) and funds to provide fiscal support and assistance to the Climate Change program: FY 24: \$58,944 (Salary); \$8,000 (Equipment); FY 25: \$122,772 (Salary), MOF A

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

10:00 AM

Conference Room 308

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

H.B. 300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

To: Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **strongly supports** H.B. 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The HSPLS strongly supports H.B.300 as it provides Hawaii's 51 public libraries, two bookmobiles and two support facility with the necessary resources to nurture lifelong learning and remain the heartbeat of our communities. The support and resources provided by the State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, and the Board of Education, ensure equity of access to our collections, both physical and digital, staff expertise, and programs and services that connect people to the world of information and ideas. These resources also enable public libraries to create and maintain spaces for community engagement.

The HSPLS Biennial Budget request for FY23-FY25 directly advances the objectives of the four core areas of focus in the HSPLS Strategic Framework – People, Place, Collections, and Programs/Services:

HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FRAMEWORK – AREAS OF FOCUS



The HSPLS’ Biennial Budget request for FY23-FY25 is based on a review of our prior budget and actual expenditures for the previous years. Areas of greatest need and potential impact on our ability to provide public library services to our communities are carefully balanced. Lastly, we consider how the budget request corresponds with our long-term priorities to meet the future needs of our communities.

HSPLS Budget Request – General Funds (People, Programs/Services):

To ensure that our public libraries remain vital community spaces and provide the same level of access to library services across the state, we need staff in both the branches and in operational support positions.

In a recent public library survey of our communities, we learned that our communities value our staff. Yes, staff are there to keep the doors open, but more importantly, they help people navigate information, learn, and use technology. Staff in our support offices help branches operate effectively.

In many rural communities, especially on the neighbor islands, public libraries are the only community resource available. The requested investment in staffing will ensure there is access to vital community resources throughout Hawaii.

1. \$3,218,236 for Staffing

This funding is needed to restore the crucial 64 positions that have not been funded since FY21 and directly affects our ability to provide services and keeping libraries open. Ensuring equitable access to all communities is extremely difficult without enough staffing.

2. \$148,248 for 2 Librarian VI positions

The HSPLS reorganized this past fiscal year in order to more efficiently manage resources on our neighbor islands and provide additional support for our neighbor island branch managers. We need two additional Librarian VI positions to oversee the Hawaii Island and Maui branches; these staff will work on their respective islands.

3. \$48,228 for 1 Janitor II for Hawaii Island

Funding will allow us to convert a temporary janitor position into a full-time floating janitor for Hawaii Island. A floating janitor ensures that we can maintain a clean and safe environment for our staff and the public at our Hawaii Island public libraries when a library does not have a permanent janitor or the janitor is unavailable for an extended period of time. Healthy spaces are vital for our communities, and janitorial services are necessary to ensure our buildings are clean and safe.

4. \$55,800 for 1 Delivery Driver for Hawaii Island

In order to effectively manage the delivery of materials on Hawaii Island, we need more than one permanent driver. This position would add a driver that would primarily serve West Hawaii.

5. \$550,000 for Security Guard Services

Additional funds are needed to meet the expected increase in the cost of security guard services, which has doubled in the past year. This funding will ensure that we can afford to have qualified guards available.

6. \$100,000 for Digital Literacy

Funding will allow for a dedicated statewide coordinator and continued development and management of digital literacy programs statewide.

7. \$300,000 for Public Awareness Program

This funding will support the building of a focused public awareness program to ensure that individuals and families know what free resources are available to support their information, learning and connection needs. The public awareness program will ensure there is equity of access to resources statewide and is an investment in the broader community.

HSPL Budget Request – Capital Improvement Projects (Place)

Our public library spaces are considered valued spaces for our communities. We must continue to care for and provide safe spaces for our communities. To ensure continued care and maintenance of our building assets and community spaces, we are requesting the following in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding:

CIP PROJECTS	FY24 BUDGET REQUEST	FY25 BUDGET REQUEST
Health and Safety	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Keaau-Mt. View Public Library	\$10,000,000	

1. \$10,000,000 for FY 2024 Health & Safety Lump-Sum Funding

The requested amount will address our backlog of Health and Safety projects and energy efficiency projects. The requested funding will ensure that projects that are already in progress will be able to proceed forward without delay due to lack of funding, as well as allow us to initiate new projects without delay. Our libraries are important community spaces that not only serve as vital places for reading, learning, using technology, and gathering, but often times are the only cool space for people to go to escape the increasing heat from climate change. Sixty percent (60%) of our 52 buildings were built before the 1970s and haven't had significant improvements made since originally constructed. Continued investment is required to ensure that our libraries are healthy, safe, energy efficient, and comfortable community spaces.

As our community and economy shifts out of the pandemic, public libraries are more important than ever as we build our future in Hawaii. An investment in our public libraries is a direct investment in our communities and the resources to help make them successful.

2. \$10,000,000 for Keaau-Mt. View Public Library

We are requesting an additional \$10 million to supplement an earlier FY2022 appropriation of \$10 million for Planning, Design and Construction to build a new public library. The new library will replace and consolidate two existing Public and School Libraries on the campuses of the Keaau Middle School and the Mt. View Elementary School.

For several years, relocating the public library from the Keaau and Mt. View school campuses has been a priority for both schools and communities. Public access to these public libraries has been restricted due to safety and security concerns arising from having the public intermingling on the school campus while school is in session.

The initial appropriation was estimated based on an earlier planning study conducted several years ago. The amount of additional funding is based on estimates from completed planning and site selection studies for the new library, and considers recent escalations in the cost of materials and transportation. Additionally, the increase in cost recognizes that the new library will serve two growing communities, including providing much needed community meeting space for the area.

Funding for Public Libraries Supports Individual Achievement and Community Growth

Our 51 public libraries and two book mobiles on six islands are vital hubs that are open to all and connect our communities to information, ideas, our shared stories, and each other.

The investments included in H.B. 300 will ensure that Hawaii's public libraries continue to provide staff who can guide community members to the free resources and programs that support early literacy, education, job-seeking, connection to government resources, and the life of the mind through new stories, worlds and ideas. The funding in H.B. 300 will also ensure that our facilities are safe spaces for our communities to meet, engage and learn.

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



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourismauthority.org

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of HB300, including annual base funding for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) of \$60 million for FY24 and FY25, along with an incremental \$15 million allocation for FY24 only.

HTA is responsible pursuant to HRS 201B for stewarding the Hawaiian Islands brand globally, educating prospective visitors, and working to balance tourism's economic benefits with its impacts on natural resources and communities. We do this through active presence in our primary visitor source markets, a robust program of pre- and post-arrival visitor education, a focus on destination management guided by the community-generated Destination Management Action Plans, and investment in programs led by local organizations to enrich our natural resources, Hawaiian culture, and community.

Over the past two and a half years, Hawai'i experienced and survived a massive economic collapse thanks to a coordinated effort between the private and public sectors. In concert with our partners and stakeholders, and led by our board of directors, HTA has been guiding and supporting the recovery of our tourism industry which has helped resuscitate Hawai'i's overall economy ahead of projections.

Tourism is the largest sector of Hawai'i's economy, and therefore a major contributor of tax revenues to fund important state priorities. In 2022, preliminary numbers show that Hawai'i tourism topped the previous high water mark 2019 in visitor spending (\$19.3 billion, +8.9%) and state tax revenue (\$2.21 billion, +6.2%) with fewer visitor arrivals (9.25 million, -11%).

It is important to note that this strong recovery was primarily powered by the U.S. market, where HTA has maintained continuity in our visitor education, brand management, and support services even through the contested process to procure the next contract for that market. Two major HTA procurements are under way at this time, requests for proposals in U.S. brand management and marketing, and support services for destination stewardship. The budget requests before you will fund the work being procured in those two RFPs.

The request for an incremental \$15 million in FY24, on top of the \$60 million in requested base funding, will return us to an operational cadence that allows us to focus on the important work of balancing tourism's economic benefits with its impacts through destination management and visitor education.

In FY24 at \$75 million, our proposed budget invests 25% into community programs, 60% into brand management and visitor education, 10% into sports marketing, and the remaining 5% into our staff, administration, and governance.

In FY25 at \$60 million, our proposed budget adjusts to 23% community programs, 60% brand management and visitor education, 10% sports marketing, and 7% staff, administration, and governance.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority is also responsible for the management of the Hawai'i Convention Center on behalf of the state. We are requesting the restoration of an expenditure ceiling of \$28.5 million for the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund. That fund has historically been sourced from Transient Accommodations Tax revenues and reinvested in the operation and maintenance of the Hawai'i Convention Center, a state asset that serves kama'āina and visitors alike.

In the 2021 legislative session, the Convention Center was provided ARPA funds and the expenditure ceiling for the special fund was removed. \$34.9 million is in the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund, \$29 million of it unencumbered and inaccessible until an expenditure ceiling is restored.

Conversations are also ongoing with the tourism committees in both chambers of the Legislature to seek a path forward for critical repairs to the Convention Center roof.

HTA's message to prospective visitors around the world is **Mālama Hawai'i**: an invitation for them to join kama'āina in caring for our beloved home. Setting that intention and expectation, combined with robust visitor education through all stages of the journey, is our strategy to target and welcome visitors who prioritize the environment and being mindful guests – all key to achieving our goal of a regenerative model of tourism.

We appreciate the support of this committee, and look forward to working with you to continue our work on behalf of the people of Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHASON ISHII
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
Craig K. Nakamoto, Executive Director
Hawai'i Community Development Authority

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports HB 300**, that appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

HCDA has worked with the Kalaeloa community for over twenty years. One of the greatest concerns continues to be the unreliable electrical system.

There is a CIP request to upgrade the electrical and communication system on Saratoga Avenue, BED150, in HB 300, that will provide the Kalaeloa downtown area with reliable and resilient underground energy and communications, built to the industry standard in collaboration with the Hawaiian Electric Company.

HCDA urges you to support the BED150 operating budget, and the BED150 CIP Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements for \$12,125,000.

Recent pedestrian accidents in the news, have brought the poor condition of the roads without sidewalks, in Central Kaka'ako, to light again as public safety issues. HCDA, other state agencies and the City and County of Honolulu are collaborating to improve the roadways in Kaka'ako.

Please also consider the BED150 items in the governor's message 1 (GM1):

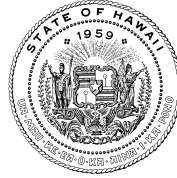
- **BED150 - \$1,000,000 in General Funds for FY24 for Street Improvements** in Central Kaka'ako. This request is for the planning and design of improving multiple streets.
- **BED150 - \$17,500,000 in General Funds for FY24 for Central Kaka'ako Street Improvements.** This request is for the design and construction of improvements such as roadway repairs and patching, drainage and waterline upgrades, and electric and communications upgrades. Upon completion, HCDA plans to dedicate the improvements to the City and County of Honolulu.

The two items below are a housekeeping request to align with HCDA's reorganization, that was completed in October 2022. These Kalaeloa Planner positions are now HCDA Planner positions, that can assist with the planning in any or all the HCDA districts, not only Kalaeloa:

- BED150/KL and KA – The request is to transfer one position's Program ORG Code from BED150/KL to BED150/KA.
The net impact is \$0 – (\$111,014 in FY24 and \$114,557 in FY25) in General Funds from KL to \$111,014 in FY24 and \$114,557 in FY25 in General Funds to KA.
- BED150/KL and KA – The request is to transfer one position and OCE Program ORG Code from BED150/KL to BED150/KA.
The net impact is \$0 – (\$320,000) in Special Funds (\$120,000 Personnel Services and \$200,000 Other Current Expenses) from KL to \$320,000 in Special Funds to KA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

MARCH 8, 2023, 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (H.B.) 300, Relating to the State Budget, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** the Governor's executive budget. We are seeking funding for critical needs in support of our goal to provide quality and consistency in the delivery of essential support services to other State departments and agencies. The following are highlights of our approved budget requests and include items in Governor's Message 1.

I. Operating Budget – Highlights of our FB 2023-25 Operating Budget items included in this measure:

- Adds \$17,000,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 for insurance cost increases to cover recurring annual costs.
- Adds \$3,718,308 for Office of Election's voting system contract and State matching funds for federal awards.
- Adds 7.00 permanent positions in FY 24 and FY 25, and \$907,190 in FY 24 and \$994,772 in FY 25 for the Accounting System Development and Maintenance program for the Enterprise Financial System Project.

- Adds \$9,500,000 to support the Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace.
- Adds \$1,262,797 for statewide utility cost increases.

II. CIP Budget - DAGS appreciates the support included for CIP in the Executive Budget for the following items:

- Adds \$15,000,000 in general funds in FY 24 and FY 25 for Lump Sum Maintenance of Existing Facilities, Public Works Division, Statewide.
- Adds \$33,500,000 in FY 24 for State Capitol Building, Rehabilitation of Chambers Level Waterproofing System, O'ahu.
- Adds \$4,500,000 in FY 24 and \$2,700,000 in FY 25 for Lump Sum Health and Safety, Hawai'i Wireless Interoperability Network, Statewide.
- Adds \$3,400,000 in FY 24 for Kekauluohi Halon System Replacement, O'ahu.
- Adds \$700,000 in FY 24 for Kekauluohi Backup Generator, O'ahu.
- Adds \$4,700,000 for Washington Place, Health and Safety and Queen's Gallery Renovation, Oahu.
- Adds \$9,000,000 in FY 24 for Kahului Civic Center, Maui.
- Adds \$400,000 for DAGS Hilo Baseyard, Renovations and Expansion, Hawai'i.

DAGS also requests the following amendments be made to provide the Governor with the necessary flexibility in funding critical projects should the situation arise:

1. Add the following authorization for the Governor's Project Adjustment Fund:

“K. GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUPPORT
GOV100 - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

1. PROJECT ADJUSTMENT FUND, STATEWIDE

PLANS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTINGENCY FUND FOR
PROJECT ADJUSTMENT PURPOSES SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF
THE APPROPRIATION ACT.

TOTAL FUNDING	GOV	1 C	1 C”
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2. Add the following Section to Part VII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

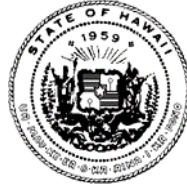
“SECTION XX. After the objectives and purposes of appropriations made in this Act from the general obligation bond fund for capital improvement projects have been met, unrequired balances shall be transferred to the project adjustment fund appropriated in part II and described in part IV of this Act, and shall be considered a supplementary appropriation thereto; provided that all other unrequired allotment balances, unrequired appropriation balances, and unrequired encumbrance balances shall lapse as of June 30, 2026, as provided in section 32 of this Act.”

3. Add the following Section to Part VII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

“SECTION XX. In the event that authorized appropriations specified for capital improvement projects listed in this Act or in any other act currently authorized by the legislature are insufficient, and where the source of funding for the project is designated as the general obligation bond fund, the governor may make supplemental allotments from the project adjustment fund appropriated in part II and described in part IV of this Act to supplement any currently authorized capital investment cost elements; provided further that such supplemental allotments from the project adjustment fund shall not be used to increase the scope of the project.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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

March 7, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 300](#) – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Hearing: March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and requests consideration of additional budget requests identified in [Governor's Message 1](#) (see page 33 of 90). On behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS) staff, we appreciate the opportunity to present and discuss the department's biennium budget requests.

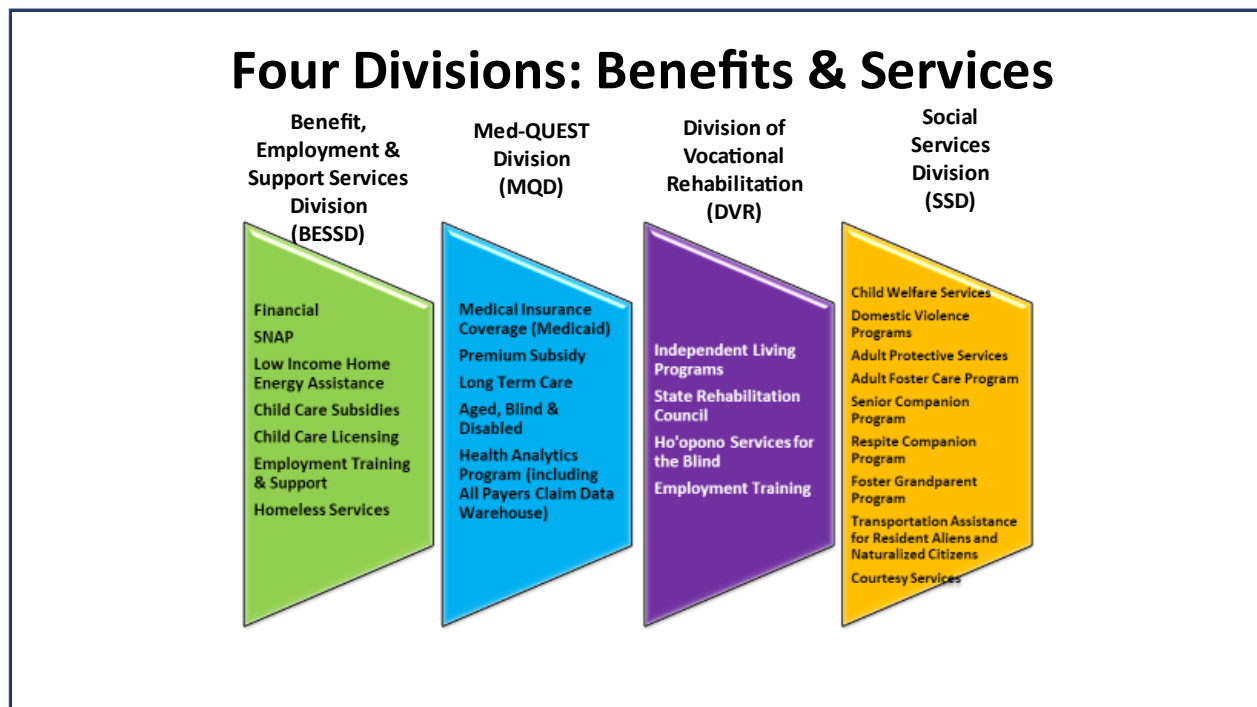
PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is a significant part of the State's safety net, providing vital benefits and services to 1 in 3 Hawaii residents. DHS is guided by federal and state law, including:

- Article IX, section three of the Hawai'i State Constitution regarding public assistance,
- Section 5-7.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the "Aloha Spirit" statute, and
- Section 26-14, HRS, mandates a multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidences of poverty and to end poverty.

DHS provides benefits and services with the following organizational structure:

- Four Divisions: Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), Social Services Division (SSD);
- Three attached agencies: the Office of Youth Services (OYS), the Hawai'i Public Housing Agency (HPHA), and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS);
- Four attached commissions and one council: the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW), the Commission on Fatherhood (COF), the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (HSLGBTQ+), and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC);
- Six staff offices that provide services to all divisions, attached agencies, and commissions: Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), Audit, Quality Control & Research Office (AQCRO), Budget, Planning, & Management Office (BPMO), Fiscal Management Office (FMO), Human Resources (HR), and Office of Information Technology (OIT); and
- The Director's Office.



With 1,682 staff in more than 80 offices state-wide, DHS continues to serve nearly 1/3 of Hawaii's population with one or more benefits or services. In addition, DHS manages an annual budget of over \$3.8 billion, of which 65% are federal funds. Notably, DHS distributes a vast majority of federal funds as benefits or services and can also access federal matching funds to pay for salaries and operations. To continue to serve Hawaii's residents efficiently and effectively, we have the following strategic goals:

Goal 1: Improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's individuals and families.

DHS provides benefits and services to vulnerable individuals and families by assisting them with financial assistance and nutrition assistance, securing gainful employment toward economic self-sufficiency, supporting early childhood development and school readiness, providing access to health care, intervention, and prevention services that address abuse and neglect, and increasing housing stability.

Goal 2: Improve service integration and delivery to develop solutions for sustainable outcomes.

We are transforming our policies, processes, and systems to improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's individuals and families. We aim to serve residents across programs and divisions with integrated eligibility and case management applications and a vision for the future that connects residents quickly to available resources.

Our programs and benefits support individuals, families, and community organizations and contribute to our local economy. DHS pandemic response re-established Hawai'i DHS as a national human service delivery leader. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DHS staff pivoted rapidly to a work-from-home and hybrid environment while maintaining and increasing safe access to benefits and services. DHS used federal funds to invest in technology and capabilities to support the hybrid workforce and new online processes. As a result, our administrators, supervisors, and staff gained new skills and capacity to serve Hawaii's residents – nonstop – from a hybrid environment.

Experienced and innovative leadership and dedicated staff executed the many new pandemic programs and programmatic changes built on skills gained through our ongoing business processes and IT modernization efforts.

As federal pandemic programming and the public health emergency ends, DHS is preparing to shoulder another huge lift as DHS "unwinds" pandemic processes and programs. The unwinding will require communication with recipients and community providers to preserve eligibility and transition those no longer eligible for certain benefits to other available resources.

We are also mindful that low and fixed-income residents continue to be impacted by inflation and high housing costs. In addition, some may be suffering from long-Covid and continue to need public benefits and services. We also remain prepared for the potential impacts of a national recession as human services caseloads are countercyclical –our caseloads go up as the economy slows.

However, as we "unwind," we continue our journey to transform DHS into a modern integrated human services delivery system by:

- (1) Modernizing the DHS IT infrastructure,
- (2) Implementing our multigenerational 'Ohana Nui framework to end intergenerational poverty, and
- (3) Developing and implementing the department's strategic plan and performance measures.

Goal 3: Improve staff health and development.

Like many human services agencies nationwide, DHS faces high vacancy rates – currently, 28.7% department-wide, as higher-paying jobs attract the available workforce or people have left the workforce. As such, we continue to invest in the health and well-being of the DHS workforce and support a flexible work environment to retain and attract workers to fulfill these demanding yet critical services for Hawaii's residents.

Before the pandemic, we provided staff time and opportunity to engage in mindfulness and other stress management courses. Throughout the pandemic, staff engaged in additional webinars and resources to address the stressors of working from home, withstanding a global pandemic, and caring for children and older relatives. By promoting our DHS workforce's health, well-being, professional development, and cross-sector collaboration projects, we are better prepared to support each other and the individuals and families we serve.

However, we are concerned with the relentless strain staff are experiencing as the pace of programmatic changes continues, the persistent threat to one's health and the health of one's family, and other emergency management events. To sustain our staff and workload requirements, we need the Legislature's support to find more ways to retool, reduce the pressure, and continue a flexible work environment that supports our staff's health, mental health, and morale.

Providers continue to be impacted by the pandemic and inflation.

Higher paying jobs in other sectors and inflation also impact our contract service providers, who have experienced workforce shortages and increased costs. We've requested increased funds for contracts, higher reimbursement rates for medical professionals, and we are extending the nursing facilities and hospital sustainability programs that increase access to available federal funds for nursing facilities and hospitals that serve Medicaid recipients. New initiatives, incentives, and compensation programs are required to attract workers to the human services field.

Human services program caseloads go up during recessions.

In terms of the forecasted national recession, based on what happened after the 2009 Great Recession, we anticipate an increase in homelessness and housing instability as rents remain high, and housing inventory is tight. Therefore, regardless of how long or deep the predicted recession will be, DHS must be prepared to support fluctuating caseloads that will continue to require investment in a hybrid, flexible work environment and attention to the health and well-being of our workforce. DHS needs the Legislature's continued support to maintain the high level of operations, staff, and IT infrastructure projects that improve access to benefits and services, which promote health care, economic self-sufficiency, family strengthening, prevention of abuse and neglect, and housing stability.

Existing Offices, Commissions, and innovations need support.

We also have a new Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions and the new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission¹ to support along with the other Commissions and innovative initiatives. Numerous legislative proposals require DHS to participate in work groups or lead programs beyond our statutory mandate or subject matter experience. However, we will strive to meet these challenges and continue our collaborative cross-sector and other efforts.

To guide us in completing this vital work, we prioritize our work with the following goals:

- 1. Preserve and improve the safety net;**
- 2. Enhance supportive services;**
- 3. Transform government through continued modernization of IT systems, program redesign, program development, and human resources; and**
- 4. Leverage federal funding.**

During the pandemic, DHS engaged in opportunities to collaborate with local and national partners to improve access to programs and benefits and to innovate solutions to pandemic challenges. For example, with the Department of Education and the Charter School Commission, Hawaii DHS was the first State agency in the federal Region IX to implement the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program that provides additional nutrition assistance to families with young and school-aged children. To date, Hawaii's P-EBT program, initiated in the summer of 2020, paid out \$305,359,449 and served 127,705 families, including 127,427 children. In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 made P-EBT a permanent program. We await additional guidance from the US Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service on the permanent P-EBT program requirements.

¹ See GM 1 HMS 904 Adds funds for LGBTQ+ Commission Operational Expenses and HMS 904 Adds funds for Operating Current Expenses for Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood.

Building on the new data integration capabilities acquired while developing P-EBT, DHS applied to the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for the "No Kid Hungry" technical assistance project to improve access to Hawaii's Women, Infant and Children's (WIC) program, administered by the Department of Health, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administered by DHS. With funding from "Share Our Strengths," staff from APHSA, DHS, DOH, the University of Hawaii, Children's Healthy Living Center of Excellence (UH-CHL), information technology staff, and project management contractors addressed WIC and SNAP program rules and application processes. The group is working to create a data-sharing framework to make Hawaii's nutrition programs more accessible to eligible Hawaii residents.

In addition to continuing Medicaid coverage for nearly 1/3rd of Hawaii's population during the pandemic, the Med-QUEST division was the first in the nation to implement access to Medicaid by Hawaii's residents from nations of the Compact of Free Association. MQD also worked closely throughout the pandemic with local pharmacies to ensure that long-term care patients received timely COVID-19 vaccinations, with drive-throughs or in-home when individuals could not reach a vaccination site.

DHS leadership and program administrators also worked with the National Governors Association (NGA), former Governor Ige's staff, the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR), the Workforce Development Council and Division, and the Enterprise Technology Services to develop the Hawai'i Career Acceleration Navigator or HI-CAN. The project goal was to streamline job search and skills development for unemployed workers or others looking to improve their skills and gain different employment. Currently, the project is developing a benefits calculator so that job seekers can access available public programs like SNAP, child care subsidies, or health care coverage.

DHS leadership also collaborated with NGA, DOE, DOH, and native Hawaiian organizations to develop and create standards for the community- and school-based family resource centers. Act 129, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022, established the Family Resource Center pilot within DHS and tasked DHS to work with the community to develop standards, networking, and data-sharing processes. Family resource centers aim to reduce reports of child abuse and neglect by providing early access to services or assistance in communities where families live from people with whom they are most familiar. In addition, family resource centers help caregivers provide a stable home environment for children to excel in school.

Similarly, our work with advocates, legislators, and the Department of Public Safety (PSD) supported the passage of Act 125, SLH 2022, to establish a Family Resource Center and Child Visiting Program at Waiawa Correctional Facility. This pilot aims to renovate visiting space at Waiawa and begin to provide services to families with children of incarcerated individuals as they return to society and restart their familial and parental responsibilities.

Also of note was the collaboration with key legislators to pass Act 237, SLH 2022, which authorizes DHS to pay up to \$500 in rental assistance to First To Work (FTW) participants receiving Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF)/Temporary Assistance to Other Needy Families (TAONF) cash benefits. As a result, with a general fund appropriation in the budget, DHS will be able to serve all Hawaii residents participating in the TANF/TAONF programs that serve families with children. In addition, DHS will tap into Hawaii's federal "TANF reserve," and the rental subsidy will assist families in meeting Hawaii's high rental cost. DHS continues to research how the TANF reserves can further assist housing efforts.

In 2022, the Legislature, amongst other additions, provided budget appropriations to support the Exit and Retention Bonus program for TANF/TAONF recipients who exit the assistance programs through employment. With the appropriation, DHS can implement the program authorized by Act 128, SLH 2018, and access available federal funds from the "TANF reserve."

As described above, DHS strategizes to maximize available federal funds. The various federally funded or split-funded benefit programs often provide federal matching funds for operations, including personnel costs, or use a reimbursement model where the State upfronts 100% of the expenditures and then seeks federal reimbursement for a percentage. We also employ the department's special funds to support specific programmatic functions. Tied to this strategy, in addition to budget proposals, DHS proposes administrative measures to continue the existing hospital and nursing facility sustainability funds permanently. The sustainability funds will bring more federal funds to support the State's health care system.

Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD)

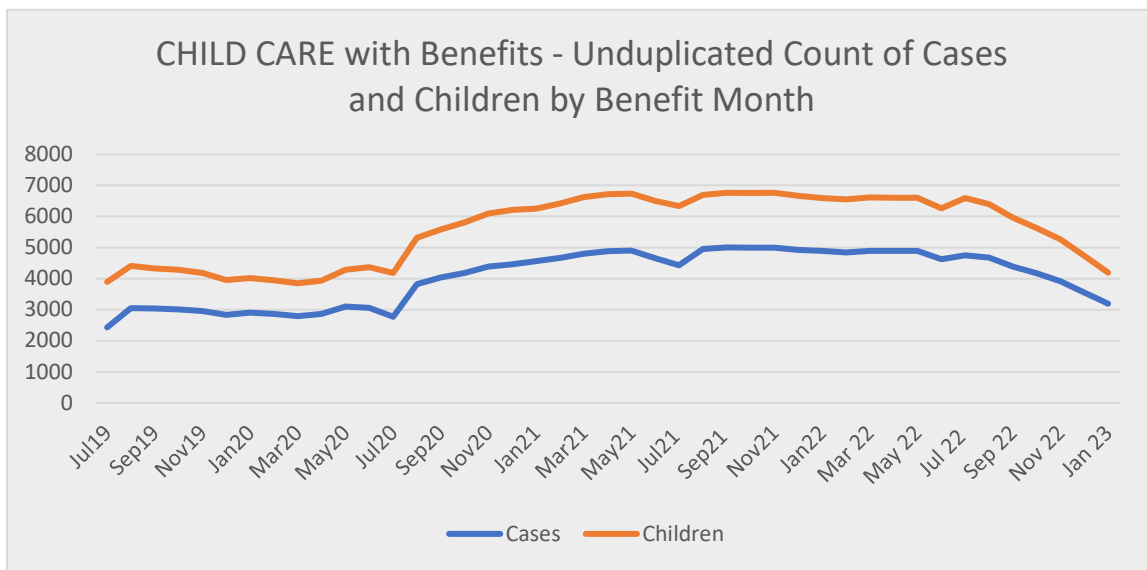
At the outset of the pandemic and as the economy halted, BESSD quickly launched an online application and revamped its work processes to meet the needs of Hawaii's residents. Processing center staff and administrators worked incredibly hard to digest and implement the many pandemic program changes. Financial assistance caseloads hit a pandemic high of 29,822 households in December 2020, representing a 65.5% increase in caseloads over March 2020. At the pandemic's height in July 2021, more than 200,000 individuals received SNAP benefits to put food on their tables. These 206,226 SNAP recipients represented a 34.7% increase over March 2020.

Federal Child Care Funds

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)/Act 9, SLH 2020	\$11,600,000
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA)	\$22,328,695
Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)	\$66,000,000

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)- Child Care Stabilization Grant	\$71,900,000
Total	\$171,828,695

In addition, Child Care Programs distributed nearly \$172M in federal child care funds to parents, custodians, and regulated child care providers. CCPO increased child care subsidies and modified eligibility criteria so more parents and caregivers could access child care subsidies and child care and maintain employment. As a result, in September 2021, the number of child care cases hit a high of 5,003 cases providing subsidies for 6,761 children, representing a 79.3% increase over March 2020. Child care providers had two rounds of child care stabilization grant funds available to keep their child care programs open and operational despite fluctuating enrollment and COVID-19 mitigation requirements that altered their ability to care for more children. As of January 2023, the number of households receiving child care subsidies has decreased, though it is still 8.2% higher than the number of households served in March 2020.



As economic activity has resumed and caseload numbers are in decline and nearly resemble pre-COVID-19 numbers, demand for services remains steady, partly due to the impacts of inflation.

PROCESSING CENTERS	
Applications Received Daily	300
Applications Received Monthly	6,300
Eligibility Renewals Processed Monthly	5,000
Number of Calls Received Daily	1,500
Number of Calls Received Monthly	31,500

As of December 2022, monthly applications received are about 6,300 – an over 40% increase in demand compared to pre-pandemic levels. Due to increased demand during the pandemic, the SNAP Timeliness percentage decreased, and the error rate has increased. Compared with February 2020, the number of applications received for the month was 4,412, SNAP Timeliness was high, and the error rate was low.

To adequately address the current volume of work, we estimate that we need 279 Eligibility Workers. Current position counts are at the minimum needed to deliver the services. The following reflects the number of positions assigned to the processing centers, the number of filled positions, and the current vacancy rates for BESSD:

PROCESSING CENTERS				
Position	Position Count	Filled	Vacant	% Vacant
Eligibility Worker	282	226	56	25
Office Assistants	73	39	34	47

High vacancies due to retirement, a lack of interested applicants, and higher wages elsewhere make positions difficult to fill. The challenges of filling Eligibility Worker (EW) and Office Assistant (OA) positions is a national issue. We continue to process the work despite having only 75% of the optimal workforce needs of Eligibility Workers and 53% of the clerical support needed to manage the ongoing demand.

As we re-establish operations post-COVID-19 restrictions, it has been a tough transition for our workers and old and new clients to reacclimate to regular program requirements after two years of federal waivers that reduced the number of steps and eased processes. In addition, new workers hired during the pandemic will now require additional training in "pre-pandemic" regular eligibility procedures. We continue to evaluate options, needs, and solutions that will improve operational efficiencies, our safety net programs and allow for continuous adaptation to the changes we encounter as we move further along post-COVID restrictions.

We request your continued support of our budget requests as we continue to deliver benefits and services.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR)

DVR administers state-wide vocational rehabilitation services programs for persons with physical and mental disabilities. These include independent living rehabilitation services for persons with severe disabilities, general services for persons who are blind and visually impaired, and the disability determination of claims for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits issued by the Social Security Administration.

DVR provides the vocational rehabilitation programs as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stands Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and agreements with other state agencies and the federal government.

DVR Mission – DVR serves participants who require assistance preparing for, securing, retaining, or regaining employment. DVR staff works as a team so that participants can achieve their hopes and aspirations for meaningful employment through timely and individualized vocational rehabilitation services.

As of October 3, 2022, DVR met a significant milestone by resolving the Order of Selection (OOS) waitlist, with all eligible applicants proceeding to develop Individualized Plans for Employment. Since October 1, 2017, DVR has maintained a waitlist associated with a federally approved OOS due to a lack of resources. As a result of clearing the waitlist, DVR anticipates an increase in applications for services from Hawaii residents with disabilities who are eager to obtain, regain, or advance in competitive integrated employment in the workforce. Additionally, DVR's employer customers seek to hire qualified candidates with digital literacy skills that require more training support to prepare DVR participants for the job market.

DVR is aware that federal vocational rehabilitation funding will be increased to \$14,152,528 in FFY23, with a required non-federal State match of \$3,830,354 starting in FFY23 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023). The ceiling increase of \$2,767,346 for HMS 802 will ensure that DVR will leverage the available federal funds to support needed services to our community stakeholders.

DVR negotiated its Workforce Innovation, and Opportunity Act (WIOA) required performance measures with our federal funder, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education. The measures include documentation of Measurable Skills Gains (MSG) towards Credential Attainment (CA). CA rate is measured by the percentage of participants enrolled in an education or training program (excluding those in On-the-Job Training and customized training) who attain a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma, or

its recognized equivalent, during participation in or within one year after exit from DVR's program services.

As required by federal regulations, the Social Service Assistant IV positions on Oahu and Maui support the effort to document CA outcomes. DVR staff must record all the supporting documentation for MSGs and CAs in the case management records to validate progress and outcomes quarterly.

The definition of a Recognized Postsecondary Credential is a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the State involved or Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree, as well as graduate degrees for purposes of the VR program as required by section 103(a)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by Title IV of WIOA. A recognized postsecondary credential is awarded to recognize an individual's attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to obtain employment or advance within an industry/occupation. These technical or industry/occupational skills generally are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers or industry associations.

As noted in the table below, DVR MSG rates during program services for PY22 represent 35% of participants with educational goals progressing towards obtaining a recognized credential during their program services. During the pandemic, many educational providers transitioned to remote training, which affected DVR participants and identified the need to improve digital literacy skills or affected the participants whose disability required in-person training leading to higher drop-out rates among participants. DVR staff, contract, and educational providers delivered additional support to DVR participants to reinforce their successful completion of educational goals since the pandemic affected their learning opportunities.

Indicator	PY 2022 Negotiated / Required Level
Measurable Skill Gains (MSG)	35%
Credential Attainment Rate (CA)	20%
Employment (Second Quarter After Exit)	33%
Employment (Fourth Quarter After Exit)	37.5%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit)	\$4,400

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress enacted the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) in 2020, which made additional federal matching funds available to States to address the health care needs of Medicaid beneficiaries. Significantly, FFCRA included a 6.2 percentage point Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) increase as long as the Medicaid program met certain conditions. The most relevant condition has been the continuous coverage requirement. This condition requires that no Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled on or after March 2020 through the end of the public health emergency may be disenrolled unless an individual voluntarily terminates their eligibility, ceases to be a resident of the State, or passes away.

Hawai'i accepted the enhanced FMAP funds and has abided by the conditions set by the federal government.

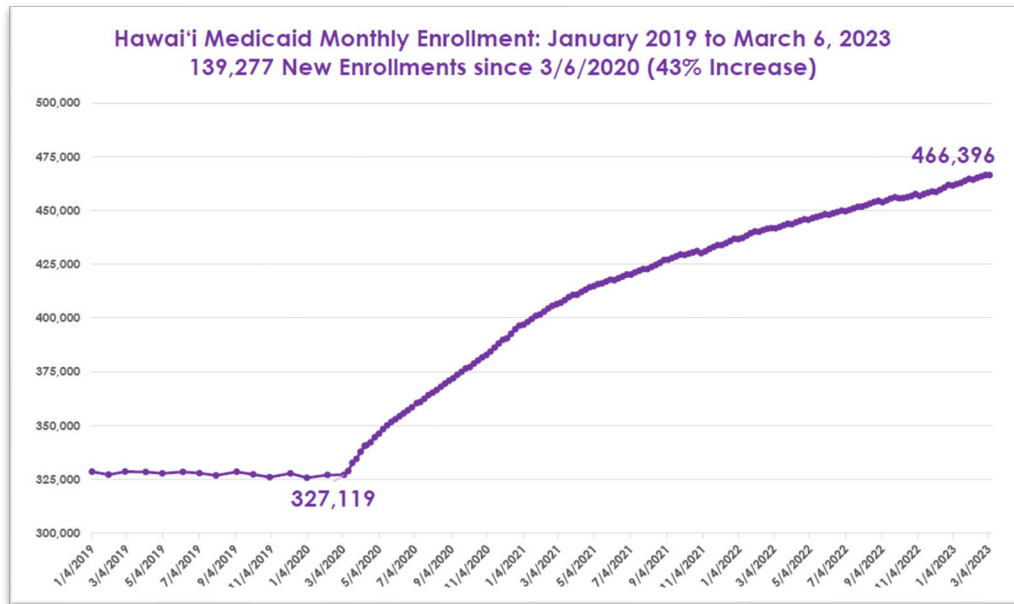
The enhanced FMAP and the accompanying continuous coverage requirement were tied to the public health emergency (PHE) until Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, signed by President Biden on December 29, 2022. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 made significant changes to the FMAP and continuous coverage requirement. The continuous coverage requirement will end on April 1, 2023, and is no longer tied to the PHE's ending. In April 2023, Medicaid programs must restart their eligibility renewal activities.

Additionally, the FMAP enhancements will change. Whereas the FFCRA FMAP enhancement was to extend through the end of the quarter of the end of the PHE, the enhanced rate will begin to change from the current 6.2% increase through March 31, 2023, to 5% April-June 2023, 2.5% July – Sept 2023, and 1.5% October – December 2023 at which time, the enhanced match will end. At that point, states will return to their base FMAP rates. MQD will work on updating our financial plan to estimate the impact of these changes on the Medicaid program and will update the Legislature as we identify the estimates. As noted above, MQD staff – of only 205 (of 294 positions, a 30% vacancy rate) will continue to shoulder an increased workload, given the historically high number of Medicaid enrollees.

At the pandemic's start, MQD operations rapidly shifted to a telework environment. As the pandemic response continued to shift, MQD made investments to enhance and support a hybrid work environment and increased online access by residents. For example, MQD secured new phone systems enabling workers to field calls from anywhere, upgraded the online Medicaid application and enrollment portal, updated staff computers, and is currently piloting an IT kiosk or "hale" that will facilitate an online interactive experience in rural communities. These innovations have enabled MQD to continue serving the public with excellence while helping with employee morale.

As mentioned above, during the pandemic and the FFCRA provisions, the Medicaid program experienced unprecedented growth of over 40% since March 2020. As a result, enrollments are over 466,000 as of March 2023, or 1/3rd (32.9%) of Hawaii's residents. This growth is due mainly to workers losing employer-sponsored health insurance early in the pandemic when

applications for Medicaid coverage soared. And, as noted above, due to the continuous coverage requirements of FFCRA, those individuals still have Medicaid coverage unless they meet one of the exceptions. Significantly, beginning in April 2023, MQD will begin a 12-month process to redetermine the eligibility of all enrollees.

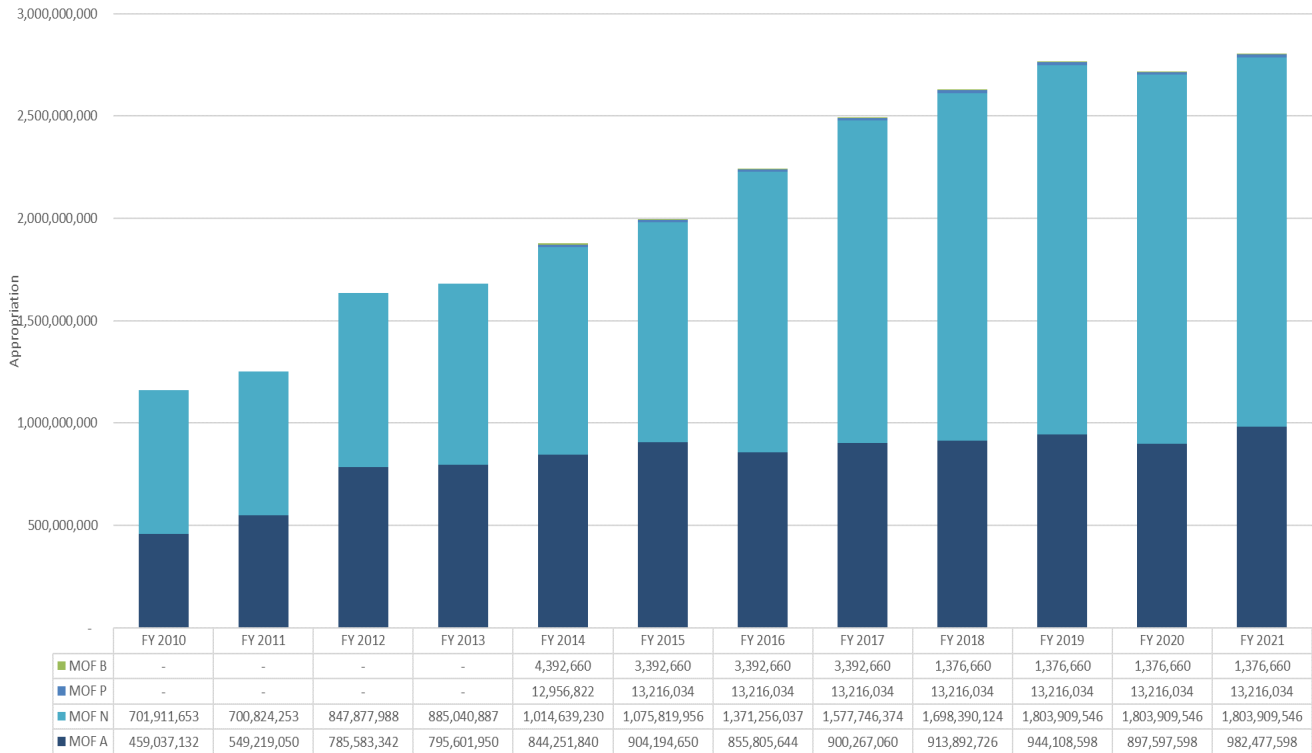


Hawai'i Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment by Plan and Island for March 6, 2023.

Health Plan	Oahu	Kauai	Hawaii	Maui	Molokai	Lanai	State-wide
AlohaCare	47,771	6,946	16,033	10,103	2,446	513	83,812
HMSA	137,197	15,019	57,591	16,977	1,061	256	228,101
Kaiser	35,471	N/A	N/A	17,592	N/A	N/A	53,063
Ohana	24,120	2,391	8,816	3,954	384	111	39,776
United	39,756	3,328	12,909	5,123	296	119	61,531
FFS	75	14	19	N/R	N/R	N/R	113
Total	284,390	27,698	95,368	53,754	4,187	999	466,396

As illustrated in the bar chart below, the enhanced federal match has helped the State cover the additional people without significantly increasing the State General Fund allocation even as the overall spending has increased.

HMS 401 Budget Appropriation History FYs 2010 - 2021



As part of the pandemic response, over the past two years, MQD partnered with independent pharmacies to go to community care foster family homes (CCFFHs) and provide flu shots, COVID vaccinations, and booster shots for everyone in those homes, including caregivers, family members, and the CCFFH residents. These efforts contributed to Hawaii’s low mortality rates due to COVID.

The 2022 Legislature allocated funds to strengthen and enhance the Medicaid program, including:

- \$26 million to expand dental benefits for adults. MQD made all administrative and logistical changes and gained federal approvals to enable a 1/1/2023 implementation date of the expanded adult dental benefits. Benefits include standard prevention, diagnostics, fillings, and other restorative services such as root canals and dentures;
- \$5.9 million to expand post-partum coverage from 60 days to 12 months. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the expansion of post-partum coverage, and MQD has already implemented the program;

- Act 254 (SLH 2022) provided \$18M in general funds as a one-time payment to nursing facilities, CCFHs, and expanded adult residential care homes to help address losses during the pandemic. The one-time pandemic payments for the specified long-term care providers approved for the federal match increase to \$47.7 million. There are two payment rounds, with the first round paid out in December 2022; and
- Act 127 (SLH 2022) appropriated \$4.5 million for a child wellness incentive pilot program for Medicaid parents. The Child Wellness Incentive Program required MQD to draft administrative rules. The rules have been drafted and will soon be submitted for the next stage of the administrative rule-making process.

Social Services Division - Child Welfare Services and Adult Protective & Community Services

The Social Services Division (SSD) provides services to eligible families and individuals. The Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) provides prevention and intervention services to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse and neglect. The Adult Protective & Community Services Branch (APCS) responds to reports of adult neglect or abuse and oversees the Adult Foster Care Program, Senior Companion Program, Foster Grandparent Program, Nurse Aid Training, and Re-Certification curriculum.

Family First Hawaii

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018, retools the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide child abuse and neglect prevention services to families and children at risk of entering the child welfare system. FFPSA aims to prevent children from entering foster care and allows states to request up to 50% percent of federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skills training. Hawaii began implementing its federally approved Family First Hawaii Title IV-E Prevention Plan on October 1, 2021.

FFPSA requires states to pay 100% of the costs of approved FFPSA services upfront and removes income limits to serve more families. To fully implement FFPSA and leverage available federal funds, CWS needs a ready source of nonfederal funds.

To create a sustainable and ready source of state funds, the administration submitted several measures to allow DHS to retain IV-E reimbursements received in the fiscal year after the expenditures were claimed instead of lapsing the reimbursements into the state general fund. Act 84, SLH 2019, added IV-E reimbursements as a source of funds deposited into the Spouse & Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF). Unfortunately, COVID-19 dramatically altered the focus and process of the 2020 legislative session, and DHS' budget request to increase the SCASF ceiling to match Act 84 was not adjusted. Last session, Act 250, SLH 2022, increased SCASF's statutory ceiling to \$5,000,000 – the amount currently needed to fund the projected cost of Family First Hawaii's services.

This year DHS requests a budget adjustment to raise the SCASF ceiling to \$5,000,000 to reflect Act 250's statutory increase. Once the ceiling is adjusted, CWS will retain up to \$5,000,000 annually. This funding stream is critical for CWS to maximize available federal FFPSA funds to support children and families in the community and decrease the number of children entering foster care and families entering the Child Welfare System. Notably, in the last two fiscal years, CWS claimed significant fourth-quarter reimbursements that could have been deposited in SCASF to sustain FFPSA services:

QTE 6/30/21

Foster Care - \$3,473,757

Adoption Assistance - \$4,011,933

Guardianship Assistance - \$1,065,325

QTE 6/30/22

Foster Care - \$2,468,490

Adoption Assistance - \$4,001,716

Guardianship Assistance - \$1,076,414.

Modernization of Data & Case Management Systems

SSD is planning the development of a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) as DHS's third phase of its IT modernization efforts. SSD will decommission its archaic case management system, the Child Protective Services System (or CPSS).

As background, CPSS went live in 1989, and while CWS has updated the data elements to align with federal mandates, the technology has not changed and is cumbersome and time-consuming to use. In 2023, given high vacancy rates and complex cases, social workers need better working tools to give them more time to spend with children and their families and connect with providers and resource caregivers.

CCWIS financing is eligible for 50% federal match funds. Currently, DHS estimates the overall planning and implementation cost of CCWIS at about \$35 million to \$40 million, with a 50/50 federal match. However, costs to other states that have already developed their CCWIS project range from \$60 million to \$80 million.

Once in place, CCWIS will improve the workers' and supervisors' case management, enable easier extraction for reporting requirements, and give CWS more opportunities to draw down available Title IV-E funds. CCWIS and the improved LAVA will make data entry easier, support higher quality data, allow for more accurate and timely reporting, offer decision-making guidance, and provide more access and data sharing with clients and our external partners.

To build these systems, appropriations for staff and contracted providers are needed. In addition, programs and hardware must be current and maintained for the systems to operate CCWIS and LAVA. CCWIS and LAVA have procured services to assist with staffing, data transfer, and project management. Procurement for the system build, data quality, and organizational change is in process.

Contracted Services and Recruitment and Retention of CWS professional staff providing direct services

Additional funding is needed to align payments within the same fiscal year in which services are rendered and address increased costs due to inflation. Due to insufficient budgeting and ongoing inflation, our offices and contracted service providers struggle to cover the increased costs of office leases, supplies, postage, freight, travel, and other expenses. At the end of each State Fiscal Year, payments of invoices are postponed due to a lack of funds, and SSD instead pays the invoices with the subsequent fiscal year funding. In addition, late fee charges for invoices are incurred each year. These services must be robust and appropriately funded to keep children from entering foster care. If children enter foster care, these services assist children and families toward reunification or another permanent home.

CWS has experienced an increase in the number of families referred to CWS and its differential response system, comprised of contracted community-based programs. For this specific population of families, from CY2016 to CY2021, CWS experienced a 53% *increase* (from 2,193 to 3,346) in the number of intakes assigned to CWS for follow-up with safety and high-risk issues each year.

However, CWS staff and contracted community service providers have successfully worked with families to bolster support, tools, and skills to keep children at home and out of foster care safely. As a result, from SFY 2019 to SFY 2022, there was a 17% *decrease* (from 2,784 to 2,322) in the total annual number of children in foster care.

Though contracted providers are doing great work and making positive outcomes, more resources are needed to sustain the work and decrease the number of children in foster care. Providers often request increases in their contracts as referrals for services have exceeded their capacity, or they continue to lose staff due to the low salary rates based upon no increases in their contracts. Unless contracted providers can maintain adequate staff to provide services, families often must wait for services that may delay or otherwise negatively impact the ability of CWS to reunite children and their families in a timely manner. The department supports increases to state contracts, many of which have not increased within the last decade.

SSD also needs flexibility and resources to provide competitive salaries or other kinds of stipends for social services workers. Across the country, states are struggling to find social workers and probation officers. As a result, capacity issues are at a critical point for CWS.

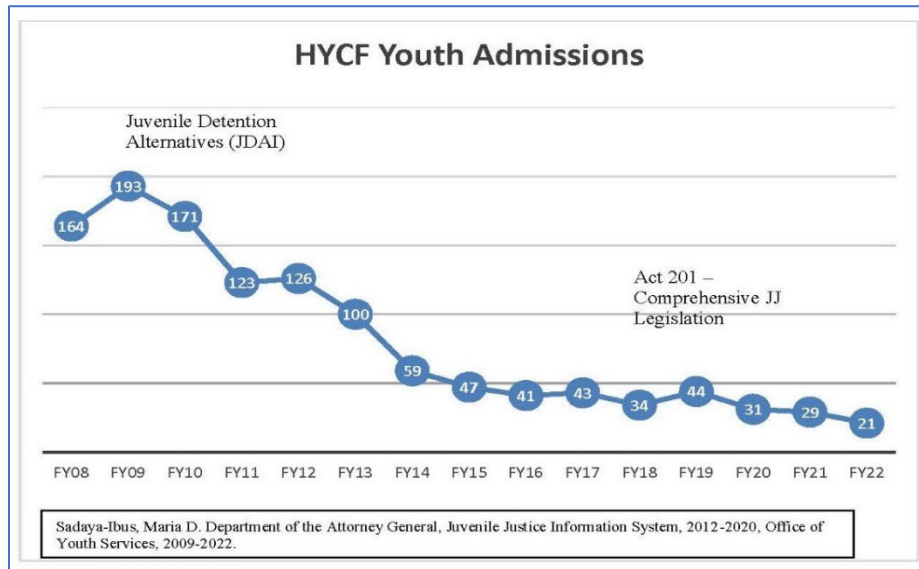
As of March 5, 2023, SSD's vacancy percentage was 30% which is 153 vacant positions out of 510 total. These critical positions provide or support direct services to children, vulnerable adults, and families who need assistance to keep families safe and together. Additionally, to recruit qualified applicants and to retain current professional staff in CWS (who work directly with families), a shortage differential will help as an incentive in building a more stable workforce. These vacant positions need to be filled, and we respectfully request that they not be deleted.

Like CWS, APCS faces an increase in complex cases as Hawaii's adult population ages, and cases involve self-neglect or more than one type of abuse. Also, age-related health issues contribute to adults' vulnerability as they are affected by intergenerational poverty, crime, chronic mental health issues, homelessness, domestic violence, and substance abuse. The resources in the community designed for elders have been declining and are insufficient, making the work of APCS more challenging and essential. In SFY 2022, APCS investigated 671 allegations of abuse. APCS needs more investigators and nurses. APCS relies primarily on state general funds to administer the program and has little access to federal funds.

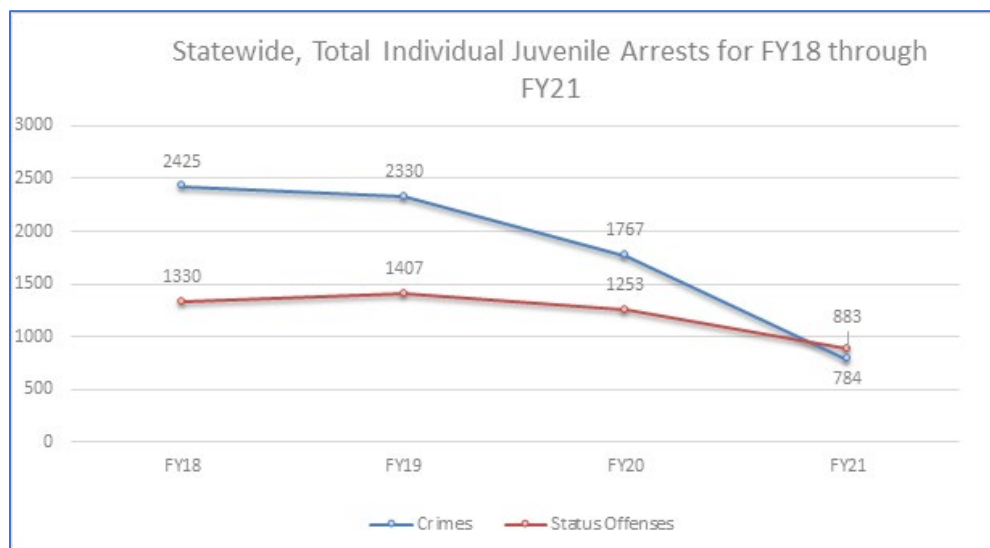
Office of Youth Services

With a solid commitment to the needs of children and families, the Office of Youth Services (OYS) is responsible for the planning, case management, and delivery of services to youth at risk (section 352D-1, HRS). In addition, OYS includes within its oversight the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities (HYCF), the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (section 352D-7.5, HRS), and the Hawaii Youth Commission (section 352D-11, HRS).

Community-wide juvenile justice reform has significantly diverted youth from the justice system – resulting in an 89% reduction in admissions to HYCF from 2009 to 2022. Upfront system prevention programs and services for at-risk youth, including positive youth development, cultural outreach, advocacy, housing, and diversion programs, have effectively reduced youth entering into and moving further into the juvenile justice system.

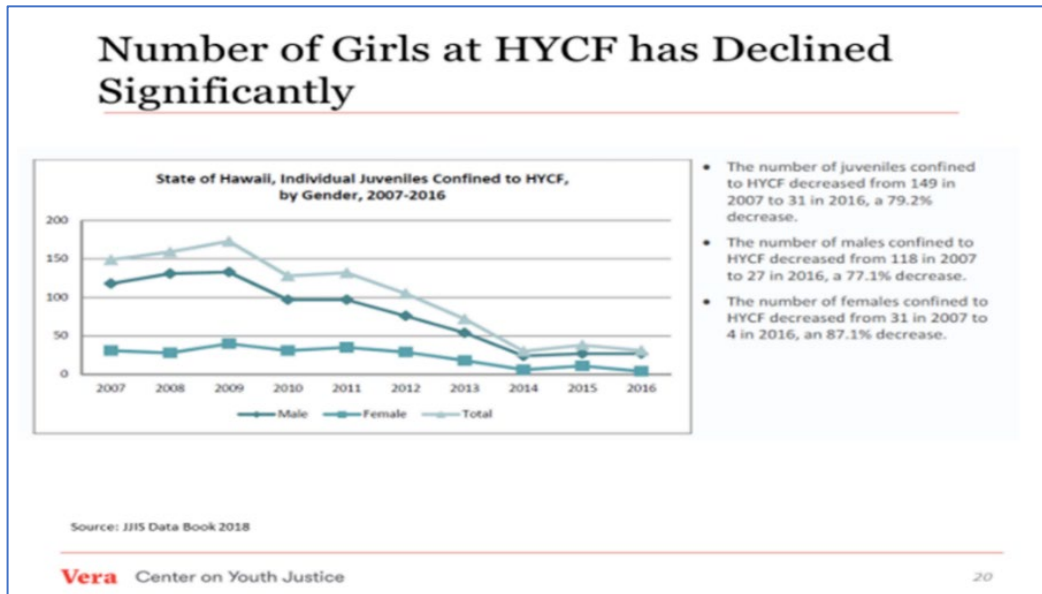


However, investment in front-end programs and services is needed to maintain progress and to reduce justice system involvement for at-risk youth. As a result, juvenile arrests are down for criminal and status offenses. The reduction in arrests may also be attributed to pandemic stay-at-home orders and increased supervision by parents and caregivers.



In 2022, the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) reached zero (0) girls incarcerated for eighty (80) days. As stated earlier, this results from collaborative system reform efforts, including implementing gender-responsive program services, diversion programs, and

alternative residential programs for girls who need behavioral and social services, not incarceration. These include two specialized programs for victims of sex trafficking.



Currently, HYCF has two girls at HYCF. The primary gap in services for system-involved youth is mental health residential facilities that will require significant resources and support to continue the reduction of all youth at HYCF.

In Act 130, SLH 2022 (Act 130), the Legislature found that runaway and homeless youth are vulnerable to multiple threats. These children and youth may have unmet basic food and shelter needs, untreated mental health disorders, substance use, significant disruption to their education, untreated health issues, sexual exploitation, physical victimization, and suicide. Act 130 establishes the Spaces for Youth Pilot Program in DHS and aligns with the mission of OYS, and provides the opportunity for OYS to establish:

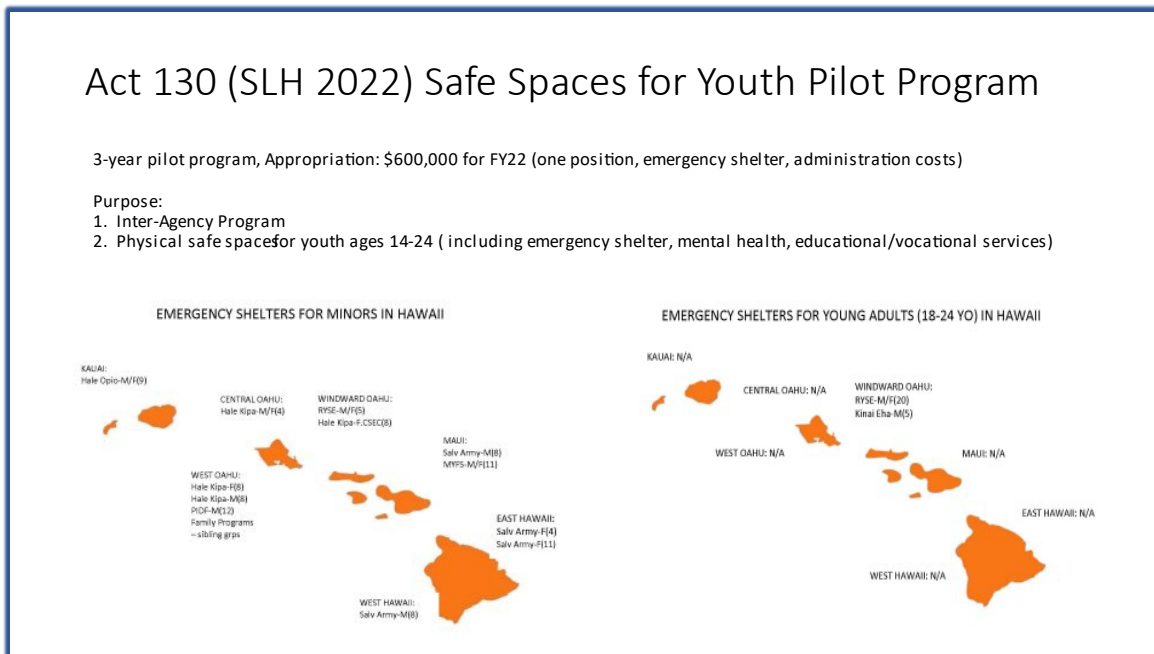
1. An inter-agency safe spaces pilot program, and
2. Physical safe spaces for youth, ages 14 to 24, in each county for youth experiencing homelessness.

Participating agencies will include, but are not limited to, the Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Public Safety, and county police departments tasked with coordinating the identification of youth experiencing homelessness and placement of youth at a shelter for homeless youth.

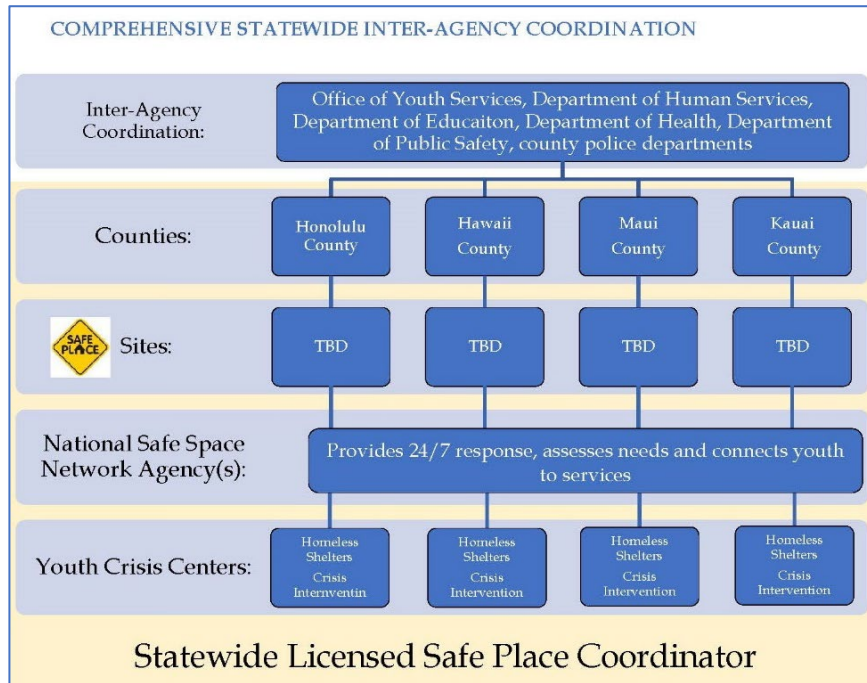
Act 130 authorizes OYC to contract with knowledgeable, experienced, qualified, and licensed nonprofit organizations to operate shelters for homeless youth. Notwithstanding any other

law, a contracted shelter may admit a youth into the shelter’s care for up to ninety (90) days without the consent of the youth’s parent or guardian. OYS needs additional funding to continue the pilot program and establish state-wide youth shelters

OYS has mapped emergency shelter services for minors (less than 18 years old) and young adults (18 – 24 years old) across the state. Mapping shows that bed space across the state for minors exists in each county; however, they do not exist for young adults. In reviewing DHS contracts for these services, while shelter beds exist for minors, there is a significant shortage, especially for minors involved in the child welfare system. Additionally, the map below shows not enough young adult shelters in each county, resulting in many unserved communities. Resource support is needed to fill these gaps and meet the needs of our youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.



As a result of conversations with government and community partners and assessing youth housing needs across the State, the following Safe Spaces project design has been developed. Implementation will require additional coordination and resources.



This program design will allow youth to access services via designated and easily identifiable “Safe Place” sites across the state, be assessed for needs, and be transported to Youth Crisis Centers as needed. While the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center is a model crisis center on Oahu, counties may vary in implementing these crisis service centers.

Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

In 1964, Governor John A. Burns created the Hawai’i State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Commission) by Executive Order. The work of the CSW is codified in sections 367-1, Hawai’i Revised Statutes (HRS), and sections 367-3 (1) through (8), HRS.

CSW sponsored or participated in numerous activities and webinars. A notable achievement of CSW during this period was raising \$150,000 from Papa Ola Lokahi and the Urban Indian Health Institute to pay for the legislatively mandated and unfunded Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Taskforce (taskforce). The task force would not have been possible without these funds, which covered a full-time principal researcher, technological support, and qualitative research components, including compensation for a survivor who has expertise in the sex trade and sex trafficking specifically.

In addition, CSW created a start-up coalition—the Hawai’i Abortion Collective—to better advance abortion access in Hawai’i to correct a decade of racist harm. Within one month of founding the new coalition, the group published the first centralized source of information on abortion legal rights, resources, and services for all islands in Hawai’i.

CSW is under-resourced by budget cuts during the pandemic, which amounted to 20% of the CSW annual budget. The new Governor and new Legislature should correct course and invest in gender equality infrastructure—the policies, services, and programs that women need to live without violence. This infrastructure should not be limited to or siloed within CSW. Instead, each department should have a gender focal point officer to coordinate with CSW to develop measurements, training, and implementation. The staff shortage leaves CSW unable to understand or adapt national and international tools to advance gender mainstreaming and feminist leadership in government.

Budget Requests

The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority will provide testimony separately.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget Requests

HMS 503 – Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

Req Cat	Dept Pri	Prog ID	Proj No.	Project Title	MOF	FY24	FY25
C	2	HMS 503	FY24.7	KYFWC Sewer System Improvements	C	1,550,000	
C	3	HMS 503	FY24.8	KYFWC Water System Improvements	C	4,900,000	

FY24.7 - KYFWC Sewer System Improvements

Funds are needed for the design and construction to assess, repair, and improve the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center's (KYFWC)² sewer system. A recent inquiry by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, sought information on the subsurface wastewater infrastructure at KYFWC. Based on the requirements, the KYFWC's operational staff discovered two (2) cesspools still operating and serving two (2) occupied structures. These cesspools violate the Safe Drinking Water Act and need to be removed from service under the first phase of this project. The Phase 2 scope will address other improvements, such as replacing cracked or blocked sewer lines and pipe re-sloping.

FY24.8 – KYFWC Water System Improvements

² The Kawaiiloa Youth & Family Wellness Center is located on the grounds of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility.

An appropriation is needed to pay for the entire design and construction cost to assess, repair, and improve KYFWC's water system. Unfortunately, the bids received in June 2022 were higher than expected, requiring the additional request.

An assessment of the campus water system is required to determine the scope and implementation of the repairs, which should not cause lengthy water service outages to the campus. Repairs to the water system are necessary to make it more reliable so that staff can shut off branch lines when a water outage may be necessary.

The anticipated work includes replacing an aging secondary pump, improvements to the pump house structure and flow monitoring equipment, and inspection and repair of the existing water storage tanks and valves that control the water flow.

Operating Budget Requests

Office of Youth Services (OYS)

HMS 501 – In-Community Youth Programs

BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25				
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
501YA-03	19	Safe Spaces Program	A	-	1.00	868,556	1.00	-	871,016
501YA-02	20	Contract Expenses at the Office of Youth Services	A			832,500			832,500

501YA-03: Safe Spaces Program

In 2021-2022, DOE reported 3,252 homeless students in Hawaii's public schools, including 103 unaccompanied, 236 unsheltered, 591 in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement, 55 in hotels or motels, and 2,269 doubling up or in shared housing. Hawaii's only designated youth homeless shelter, located at the KYFWC, sheltered 145 youths in 2021, providing 7,454 nights of safe sleep. Sixty-five percent of these youth transitioned out of unsheltered homelessness into stable housing. Of all youth served, 35% reported having no parental involvement, and 46% reported experiencing domestic violence.

DHS directed the appropriation from Act 130, SLH 2022, to HMS 501 (In-community Youth Programs) to establish an inter-agency Youth Safe Spaces Pilot Program to provide emergency shelter, hot meals and hot showers, medical and behavioral health services, education, and

vocational support to homeless youth in crisis. Act 130, SLH 2022, authorized funds for only one state fiscal year and limited funds to carry out the intent of this Act 130, SLH 2022.

This request outlines the minimum needs to provide additional support for homeless youth in one county and support to OYS to carry out the requirements of Act 130. OYS has also prepared an administration measure to amend Act 130 to include a broad definition of homelessness similar to the definition used by the DOE.³ Amongst other things, the administration proposal clarifies who may be served by the pilot program and requests additional funds.

This appropriation will significantly impact our most vulnerable youth, providing them with critical support services.

501YA-02: Contract Expenses at the Office of Youth Services

The \$832,500 in funding for the purchase of services contracts from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will end at the end of fiscal year 2023. Act 88, SLH 2021 (501YA-PRA 1 2021 Legislature; HMS 501 seq# 60-001) deleted general funds for these services. These services provide risk reduction and protective factor development programs and services to youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. These primary prevention programs include cultural programs, truancy, school attendance, outreach and advocacy, and safehouse contracts across the state.

HMS 503 – Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24				FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
503YB-02	18	Utility Expenses at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility	A			520,000			520,000
503YB-03	21	Sex Trafficking Victims Support	A			400,000			400,000

503YB-02: Utility Expenses at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

General funds are needed for utilities that are fixed costs and increasing due to inflation. This request is for repair and maintenance, safehouses, and transition programs. Current ARPA funds will end at the end of fiscal year 2023. Act 88, SLH 2021 (503YB-PRA 2021 Legislature; HMS 503 seq#60-001) deleted \$520,000 in general funds that previously covered these utility expenses.

³ HB 223 Relating to Human Services became the vehicle to amend Act 130, SLH 2022. However, FIN did not schedule HB 223 HD1 before First Decking.

Currently, the campus of the KYFWC supports five residential programs that total 70 beds for high-risk youth and young adults. KYFWC also has an additional monthly average of 150 participants in day programs on campus. The individual programs and their population encompass incarcerated individuals, homeless minors and young adults, commercially sexually exploited children, vocational training, education, farming, and ranching. The requested funds will cover the costs of electricity, water, and sewer. The current operational budget is insufficient to cover the current costs.

503YB-03: Sex Trafficking Victims Support

Provides short-term (30 days or less) shelter services for youth 12-17 years old who are suspected or determined to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation and labor or sex trafficking. This program accepts referrals from Child Protective Services, the Family Court, police departments, parents or guardians, other youth-serving agencies, and self-referrals.

Under section 352D-7.5, HRS, access to services will be made available by OYS at the KYFWC to all youth at risk of being sexually exploited and youth victims of sex trafficking. This program results from data, research, and policy decisions around Hawaii's ongoing efforts to transform the juvenile justice system. Research has shown the pathway of sexually exploited youth, especially girls, into and through the juvenile justice system, including the HYCF. These emergency shelter services for exploited girls have contributed significantly to the reduction of girls committed to the HYCF. In recent months, HYCF reached a significant milestone of zero girls for 80 days. However, a lack of ongoing funding may result in the shelter closing, sex trafficked victims not receiving assistance, and an increase in girls committed to HYCF.

Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions

HMS 777: Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) - HMS 777 is a new program ID for the SOHHS established by Act 252, SLH 2022. Previously, the appropriations for the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH), the staff, and support of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) were a part of HMS 904, the administration program ID. HMS 777 will become operational on July 1, 2023, and currently has no funds.

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
777HH-01	25	Add Positions and Funds for Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (Companion to 904AA-01)	A	5.00		500,000	5.00		460,000

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
777HH-BF	NA	Add Recurring Funding for the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program	A			15,000,000			15,000,000

777HS-01: Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS)
(Companion to 904AA-1)

According to Act 252, SLH 2022, OHHS is responsible for developing and maintaining multi-year strategic and tactical plans and road maps to address homelessness; fostering innovative projects and programs in furtherance of those plans; coordinating matters relating to affordable housing and homelessness between state and county agencies and private entities; providing administrative support to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH); and establishing and maintaining a state-wide homelessness and housing data clearinghouse.

The request will ensure that OHHS has the necessary staffing and infrastructure to fulfill its statutory mandates. Requested funds will also support contracting qualified consultants or facilitators to assist with research, evaluation, and implementation of plans and programs to address homelessness. OHHS requests funding for anticipated inter-island needed to coordinate with counties and out-of-state travel to learn from national best practices and cutting-edge solutions. Finally, OHHS requests funds for furniture, equipment, repair, and maintenance as the office may need to move from its current location within the Office of the Governor.

The work of OHHS is critical due to the persistence of homelessness state-wide and the potential impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on mental and physical health, service providers, the housing market, and the local and national economies. Key metrics of homeless services are:

- (1) the number of homeless individuals counted in the annual state-wide PIT count,
- (2) the number of beds in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC),
- (3) the percentage of persons exiting from homelessness into permanent housing, and
- (4) the percentage of people who sustain their housing after exiting homelessness.

The work of the GCH and staff has contributed to reductions in the state-wide PIT count, increases in the Housing Inventory Count of beds for homeless persons, and increases in the percentage of persons exiting from homeless programs to permanent housing. Therefore, to continue with the state's leadership to end homelessness, we respectfully request full funding so there is no 6-month delay in hiring, as the positions should continue as previously budgeted under HMS 904.

777HH-BF: Add Recurring Funding for the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program

This request will provide additional funding for the Ohana Zones pilot program for FY24 and FY25. The Ohana Zones pilot program supports innovative responses to homelessness, such as expanding or developing shelter, housing, and outreach programs, and where federal funds are not necessarily available. The OHHS will administer the Ohana Zones pilot program.

Additional funding for the Ohana Zones pilot program is necessary due to the number of people experiencing homelessness state-wide and the potential impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on mental and physical health, service providers, the housing market, and the local economy. Despite decreases in overall homeless numbers between 2016-2022, Hawaii still has the second-highest per capita rate of homelessness among the 50 states. In addition, historical Point in Time (PIT) count data shows that homelessness increased by 37% (2,100 people) following the last recession in 2009 and 2016.

During the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 - 2022, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals counted in the state-wide PIT count increased from 3,650 to 3,749 people – an increase of nearly 3% over two years. DHS anticipates that homelessness may continue to increase in the next several years, with increases expected over a prolonged period due to the prolonged impacts of COVID-19, limited low-income housing inventory, high rents, the end of the federal rental and utility subsidies, impacts of inflation, and a potential recession.

In 2018 and 2019, the Legislature appropriated \$32,000,000 for the Ohana Zones pilot program through Act 209, SLH 2018 (\$30,000,000 for FY2019), and Act 128, SLH 2019 (\$2,000,000 for FY 2020). Importantly, in Act 209 SLH 2018, the Legislature recognized that "permanent housing takes time, and in the meantime, people experiencing homelessness will continue to live unsheltered and without adequate and meaningful access to social services." The Legislature found, amongst other things, that "ohana zones have the potential to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are currently unable." (Act 209, SLH 2018).

With this flexibility in mind, GCH encumbered the funds through contracts with nonprofit organizations and the four counties. SOHHS is currently administering contracts with the four counties procured by the 2018 and 2019 appropriations; these contracts run through June 2023, the previous repeal date of the Ohana Zones pilot program. The contracts support a wide variety of emergency shelter and supportive housing programs, including the HONU program (Oahu), Kumuwai supportive housing for seniors (Oahu), Hale Maluhia supportive housing for DV survivors (Oahu), Huliau supportive housing for families (Maui), Kealaula at Pua Loke supportive housing for families (Kauai), and Keauhou Emergency Shelter (Hawaii island).

In 2022, Act 235, SLH 2022, extended the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 2026 and added \$15 million for FY2024. DHS requested the distribution of funds from GOV 100 to HMS 904. Accordingly, SOHHS began work on contracts for the \$15 million as follows: \$9 million for Oahu to support the continuation of innovative outreach and transition

services and supportive housing projects; \$2 million for Maui to support the continuation of Huliau supportive housing; \$2 million for Kauai to support Kealaula at Pua Loke and add new supportive housing in Eleele; and \$2 million for a multi-service project to end homelessness in Hawaii County.

This additional funding request for the Ohana Zones pilot program will support the development of further projects state-wide to assist in reducing homelessness in FY2024 and FY2025. Future legislation is required to make the Ohana Zones pilot program permanent or extend it further than June 30, 2026.

Benefits, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD)

HMS 224 - Homeless Services

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
224HS-01	12	Funds for Family Assessment Centers	A			1,550,000			1,550,000
224HS-05	13	Funds for Housing First Program	A			3,750,000			3,750,000
224HS-03	14	Funds for Rapid Re-Housing Program	A			3,750,000			3,750,000
224HS-02	15	Funds for Outreach and Civil Legal Services	A			1,750,000			1,750,000
224HS-04	44	Funds to Establish and Maintain Homeless Services Database	A			345,000			345,000

We are preparing for the demand for homeless services to increase due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased rents, lack of low-income inventory, inflation, and a possible national recession. The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) and the array of services it procures to assist individuals and families in remaining housed and minimizing the time spent homeless will be especially critical.

Following the 2009 economic recession, homelessness rose for several years, peaking in 2016. The state-wide Point in Time count of homeless individuals increased from 5,782 to a high of 7,921 in 2016 – an increase of 37% or 2,139 people. In addition, a review of the data regarding students experiencing homelessness in the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) showed a similar increase in homeless students – from 1,739 in the 2008-2009 school year to 3,790 in the 2015-2016 school year, or a 118% increase.

These budget requests described below highlight critical programs necessary to address potential future increases in homelessness. Additionally, we are including a 5% increase for these contract services to address rising costs and inflation.⁴

224HS-01: Funds for Family Assessment Centers

The requested funds will support two Family Assessment Centers.

Section 346-378, HRS, requires DHS to "implement housing first programs and services, as the department deems appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit from and succeed with the implementation of housing first programs and services, and subject to the availability of existing funds." Consequently, the state framework to address homelessness includes a focus on a "housing first" approach state-wide. The Family Assessment Center is a low barrier shelter utilizing the "housing first" philosophy to quickly move families with minor children off the streets and into transitional shelters or permanent housing.

The Kakaako Family Assessment Center opened in September 2016 and accommodated 12-15 families (up to 50 people) at any time. The total annual budget for the Kakaako Family Assessment Center is \$750,000. In its first five years of operation under the management of Catholic Charities Hawaii, the center served 250 households, placed 57.4% into permanent housing, and increased the income of 57% of families served. DHS is currently discussing with the City & County of Honolulu to transition the Kakaako Family Assessment Center to another location on Oahu.

In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 62, which appropriated \$800,000 for a second Family Assessment Center. As a result, DHS procured the services of the Neighborhood Place of Puna to operate the second Family Assessment Center. This center can accommodate up to 9 families (up to 27 people) at any time. In its first three years of operation, the center served 117 households, placed 41% into permanent housing, and increased the income of 52% of families served.

In addition to focusing on stable housing outcomes, Family Assessment Centers address the social determinants of health and provide case management services emphasizing building social capital. Research shows that individuals with higher levels of social capital are happier and healthier, find better jobs, and live longer. In addition, communities with higher levels of social capital have higher educational achievement, faster economic growth, and less crime.

The requested level of funding will support the continued operation of both the Kakaako Family Assessment Center and the Family Assessment Center in Puna, Hawaii.

⁴ See GM1 – HMS 224/HS \$1.23M request for Additional Funds to Increase All State HPO Contracts by 5%. See the discussion below.

224HS-05: Funds for Housing First Program

The state Housing First program focuses on the most visible, chronically homeless population, as described in section 346-378(e), HRS. These individuals may have a mental illness, addiction, or physical disability, frequently use emergency health care services, and cycle in and out of the justice system. Housing First provides various case management services that are key to moving chronically homeless individuals into stable housing, ensuring they remain successfully housed, and reducing the utilization of high-cost emergency room services. The Housing First program provides housing, ongoing rental subsidy, and supportive case management services, emphasizing building social capital for unsheltered, chronically homeless persons.

DHS has operated the state Housing First program on Oahu for over eight years and the neighbor islands for over five years. The Housing First program currently serves 255 chronically homeless individuals, with a housing retention rate of 94%, far above the national average of 80%.

Though active for eight years and highly successful, the State Housing First program funds remain on a year-to-year funding cycle and are not a part of the base budget, despite the department's requests to include homeless services funding in the DHS base budget. Without sustained funding, the individuals in the program will be at immediate risk and likely return to homelessness. A recurring appropriation would also support more innovation and lead to improved strategies and services to assist this vulnerable population.

Investment in Housing First keeps people housed, resulting in significant public cost savings over time. For example, a preliminary analysis by the University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, of a subset of State Housing First clients found that estimated healthcare costs for clients dropped an average of 43% in just six months following housing placement – from an average of \$10,570 per client per month to \$5,980 per client per month.

While the State Housing First program targets the chronically homeless, it is one piece of a larger strategy, which includes other interventions (e.g., street outreach, rapid re-housing, etc.) that address the broader population of homeless persons, including homeless youth and families.

224HS-03: Funds for Rapid Re-Housing Program

Rapid Re-housing (RRH) is nationally recognized to be a best practice. Its core components are housing identification and location services, time-limited move-in and rental assistance, and short-term case management and services. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) has long endorsed RRH as an effective way to end homelessness among families with minor children. RRH also maximizes efficiency throughout the homeless shelter system by rapidly assisting households moving out of shelters and into permanent housing.

The State's Rapid Re-Housing program has served an average of 1,401 individuals in 502 households yearly since FY18. RRH performance and outcome measures target 15% or less for recidivism which Rapid Re-Housing services have exceeded expectations with 15.08% in FY18, 8.44% in FY19, and 3.50% in FY20.

It is costly to construct and fund additional homeless shelters. Further, constructing new shelters conflicts with the national best practice approaches to addressing homelessness endorsed by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). In addition, by targeting individuals and families currently in shelters, the RRH program allows the State to maximize existing shelter inventory better. Currently, many shelters are at maximum capacity. They are experiencing a "backlog" because households cannot move quickly from homelessness to stable housing due to several factors, such as a lack of available housing or the need to obtain government-issued identification.

The RRH program, for example, assists when a household in a shelter has a dedicated source of income but lacks funds to pay for the first month's rent, deposit, and move-in costs. The RRH program could assess the family's sustainability and provide financial support immediately to have the household either avoid entering or at least limit the amount of time spent in a shelter. This approach is essential for rural and neighbor island communities with limited shelter space.

RRH also provides supportive services to assist a family in maintaining their housing after move-in. For example, if a family encounters difficulties paying rent shortly after moving to permanent housing, RRH will connect the family with appropriate resources to stabilize and maintain their permanent housing. In this way, RRH effectively ends homelessness and is a homeless prevention strategy.

224HS-04: Funds to Establish and Maintain Homeless Services Database

This request will support data aggregation from external systems into one centralized system maintained by HPO. Accurate and timely data regarding homeless services and utilization is critical to solving homelessness in Hawaii. In addition, there is an ongoing discussion with Hawaii's two Continua of Care (CoCs) regarding the potential of enhancing the CoCs' Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) databases to support more accurate data collection and expand what types of data they collect through the HMIS. HUD requires communities that receive its funds to maintain an HMIS.

For background, HPO maintains a centralized database that receives and compiles data from the two external HMIS databases each CoC maintains. After HPO migrates the external data to the HPO database, HPO builds reports to manage and monitor its contracts. However, the migrated HMIS data is limited to data elements that HUD requires, which limits HPO's ability to collect data elements it requires to monitor contracts and evaluate state-funded programs. As an example, HPO requires data elements related to state-funded civil legal services for

homeless individuals; HUD does not require these elements requiring HPO to collect another set of data from providers.⁵

There is an ongoing discussion with the CoCs to explore the possibility of making enhancements directly to the external CoC HMIS systems. The intent of data improvements is to decide whether HPO's current system or the two external HMIS – is to (1) collect required HUD data, (2) ensure the State's CoCs are compliant with HUD to continue receiving federal funding, and (3) collect required State data elements needed to manage and monitor State-funded contracted services. With these improvements, HPO can automate reporting, including HUD data, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) data, shelter vacancy reports, etc. In addition, given the limited HPO staff resources, automation will reduce labor-intensive tasks, improve overall system oversight and understanding, and lead to better decision-making.

By prioritizing the State's data entry requirements and enhanced data collection, Hawaii will align with other states that use similar methods to collect additional local data while accommodating federal HUD reporting requirements. One example is New York City's Department of Homeless Services which has a database (not an HMIS product) that exports data in an HMIS-compliant file that is uploaded into HUD's SAGE HMIS for federal reporting. The SAGE HMIS Reporting Repository is a web-based reporting portal that accepts data submissions from HMIS or other databases via a Comma Separated Value (CSV) file import to eliminate manual data entry.

224HS-02: Funds for Outreach and Civil Legal Services

Homeless outreach services, including civil legal services, are intended to reach unsheltered homeless individuals and families and engage them in housing services to end their homelessness. Homeless outreach services include assistance in obtaining identification documents and other vital records (e.g., birth and marriage certificates); identifying and locating suitable housing options and providing support through the housing location and move-in process; and assistance with job search and applications for public benefits. In particular, civil legal services are necessary to obtain vital records to secure government-issued identification for employment and housing applications and often entail requests to other state and local jurisdictions. Note that most vital record agencies require third-party requests for certified copies to be done by legal representatives.

Homeless outreach services have been provided to an average of 3,166 individuals each year since FY18, with 347 individuals on average placed into permanent housing from the streets.

⁵ Before 2019, homeless service providers across Hawaii's two Continuum of Care (CoC) used one HMIS database to manage all information, including HMIS data fields required by HUD. Until 2019, while the CoCs owned the database, HPO often provided resources and training to support the database. However, in 2019, the CoCs split the data into two HMIS databases, one for Oahu and one for the neighbor islands, which made reporting and oversight by HPO.

On average, another 1,612 individuals were placed into other appropriate settings, such as homeless shelters. Outreach performance and outcome measures target 15% or less for recidivism, and outreach services have exceeded expectations with 12.74% in FY18, 12.22% in FY19, and 6.46% in FY20. This improvement each year aligns with the goals of 'Ohana Nui with a focus on building social capital or connections.

To be successful, outreach staff needs to build a strong rapport with unsheltered homeless persons to begin to engage homeless persons who may have declined shelter or services in the past. Due to life experiences, many unsheltered homeless persons have difficulty trusting strangers, so outreach programs need time to make repeated contact and develop trusted relationships. Rapport building is critical to the effective delivery of homeless services. Without trust and a positive relationship with an outreach worker, efforts to connect an unsheltered individual or family to housing or other supports will likely be unsuccessful.

Homeless outreach services also effectively address highly visible homeless encampments on public lands. In addition, homeless outreach providers work with State land management or law enforcement agencies to ensure that homeless persons are not simply displaced from one area to another due to enforcement efforts.

Civil legal services assisted an average of 709 individuals each year since FY18, with an 87.7% success rate in obtaining vital documents and identification cards.

State-funded civil legal services emerged as a recommendation of Act 243, SLH 2015, workgroup. In 2015, Act 243, SLH 2015, provided a statutory process for homeless individuals to establish a principal address and request a fee waiver from the examiner of drivers to obtain an original or renewal ID card. Recall that the REAL ID Act of 2005, passed in response to the events of 9/11, dramatically changed how states issued government IDs requiring name verifications and a principal address, amongst other things.

On December 5, 2022, the US Department of Homeland Security extended the REAL ID full enforcement date by 24 months, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. States now have additional time to ensure residents have driver's licenses and identification cards that meet the security standards established by the REAL ID Act. Following the enforcement deadline, federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will be prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet these federal standards. Valid government-issued ID is essential to residents experiencing homelessness for employment and housing. A government-issued ID is required to access certain government facilities, including our state Capitol and the Social Security Administration. Additionally, REAL ID Act-compliant ID will be required to access federal facilities and to fly on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulated flights. Homeless individuals who wish to return to live with out-of-state relatives require a valid government ID to fly.

HPO needs additional funds for homeless outreach and civil legal services to address the expected increase in unsheltered homeless persons on Oahu and the neighbor islands. However, like other homeless programs, the Legislature appropriates funds annually for homeless outreach and civil legal services. Funding for homeless outreach should be recurring and a part of the base budget. In addition, sustained and predictable funding for homeless outreach and civil legal services supports efforts to increase the reach and quality of these services contracted by HPO.

HMS 302 - General Support for Child Care

DHS Child Care Programs include licensing as required by the Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG) and Chapter 346, Part VIII, HRS. Child care licensing covers health and safety requirements, including facility requirements, qualifications, and background checks.

For parents and caregivers, DHS provides child care subsidies through two programs: Child Care Connection Hawaii (CCCH), with federal CCDBG funds, and Preschool Open Doors, funded by 100% state general funds and implemented per section 346-181, HRS. The Preschool Open Doors program is subject to several amendments by Act 46, SLH 2020, and Act 210, SLH 2021.

As described above, the pandemic underscored that safe and regulated child care is essential for working parents and guardians to remain employed and those seeking employment or pursuing education. On the supply side, early in the pandemic, child care delivery dramatically changed as COVID-19 guidance on mitigation measures required smaller class sizes and more daily hygiene. Also, attendance and enrollment fluctuated depending on staff availability or parents' loss of employment. In addition, child care facilities required stabilization grant funds to remain open.

More families needed subsidies as their incomes fluctuated, and with pandemic program waivers and additional funds, more families accessed subsidies to pay for their child's care.

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
302DA-01	54	Adjust Funding for the 25 new positions from Act 248, SLH 2022	A			(468,894)			(435,816)
302DA-01	54	Adjust Funding for the 25 new positions from Act 248, SLH 2022	N			(834,854)			(785,526)

302DA-01: Adjust funding of the 25 new positions from Act 248, SLH 2022

This request is submitted to correct the salary and fringe benefit amounts for 25 new positions authorized by Act 248, SLH 2022, for FY23. The general and federal fund amounts appropriated for FY23 were twice the originally requested in Form A 302DA-51 (2022 Legislature, HMS 302 Seq # 100-001) and are currently part of the base budget for FB 23-25. This form A is submitted to correct the over-budgeted amounts, starting from FY24 and from now on.

These 25 positions will be statewide and process applications for child care subsidies.

HMS 903 – General Support for Self-Sufficiency Services

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
903FA-06	3	Trade-off Funding for the defunded OA III for the TANFPO (Other Current Expenses)	A			(18,036)			(18,936)
903FA-06	3	Trade-off Funding for the defunded OA III for the TANFPO (Personal Services)	A			18,036			18,936
903FA-06	3	Trade-off Funding for the defunded OA III for the TANFPO (Other Current Expenses)	N			(4,782)			(6,258)
903FA-06	3	Trade-off Funding for the defunded OA III for the TANFPO (Personal Services)	N			4,782			6,258

903FA-06: Trade-off funding for the defunded OA III for TANFPO other current expenses (OCE)

The Office Assistant III position is essential in the day-to-day operations of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Office. The position is responsible for clerical support for the TANF program office, which includes processing vendor and contract invoices for payments and resolving payment issues; processing and distributing internal correspondence (e.g., internal communications, memoranda, formal letters, etc.) and external correspondence to vendors, contractors, other departments, etc.; providing assistance with procurements such as preparing Request for Proposal (RFP) packets and posting on the State Procurement Office website; maintaining government records which include contract files, Hawaii Administrative Rules, program operational procedures manuals, etc.; providing reception coverage when required which duties include greeting visitors, answering incoming calls, and distribution of incoming DHS internal and US postal mail; and other duties as assigned.

Currently, the Secretary I position incumbent provides clerical support for the entire TANF Program Office. However, in 2021, the DHS/BESSD reorganization established the new TANF Program Office and assumed both the eligibility and work program components of the TANF Program, increasing the clerical work. Note: Before the reorganization, the Secretary I and Office Assistant III positions were assigned to the DHS/BESSD/Employment and Training Program Office, which oversaw only the work program component of TANF. The Employment and Training Program Office became obsolete with the implementation of the TANF Program Office.

The TANF Program Office has taken on several projects extending beyond the fiscal biennium. For example, the office recently closed an RFP that will award approximately 24 contracts, increasing the current number from 15 to 40. The office will also issue another RFP in early 2023 to procure afterschool and summer youth program services state-wide, further increasing its total contracts. The Office Assistant III will be integral to maintaining the contracts by regularly processing the monthly invoices for payments and processing, scanning, and filing contract documents.

Since assuming both the eligibility and work program components of the TANF Program, the Office Assistant III position will be responsible for putting together new Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and Program Operational Procedures manuals and maintaining historical and current rules and procedures.

The Office Assistant III position will alleviate the workload of the Secretary I position and allow the incumbent to concentrate on administrative support duties for the TANF Program Office. The federal fund portion of the salary was also adjusted to match the current salary schedule. Trade-off funding is coming from TANF Contract, line items 336 and 337.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

HMS 401 – Health Care Payments

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
401PE-04	2	Increase Payments to Nursing Facilities	A			5,636,953			5,636,953
401PE-04	2	Increase Payments to Nursing Facilities	N			7,191,798			7,191,798
401PE-03	3	Request General Funding for Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program	A			4,516,000			4,516,000

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
401PE-BF	NA	Increase Payments for Healthcare Providers for Professional Services	A			5,000,000			10,000,000

401PE-04: Increase Payments to Nursing Facilities

This request of \$12.8M (\$5.6M MOF A funds/\$7.2M MOF N funds) is to rebase, revise and increase payments to nursing facilities. As noted earlier, Act 254, SLH 2022, provided a one-time payment to nursing facilities and other community-based residential providers to help address losses during the pandemic. However, many nursing facilities across the state continue to struggle financially.

Rebasing and revising the nursing facility payment methodology will be done concurrently. Rebasing rates to cost will bring nursing facilities whose current rates are below cost, which has exacerbated their financial hardships. The payment methodology needs to be revised as well for two reasons. First, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is changing their payment methodologies for nursing facilities which state Medicaid agencies must adopt. Second, the Report to the Twenty-Ninth Legislature for the Complex Patients Workgroup, per HCR 161, 2017, recommended revising the methodology to provide a better alignment of incentives to care for Medicaid beneficiaries with complex needs.

401PE-03: Request General Funding for Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program

This request appropriates funds for the Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program established by Act 127, SLH 2022. This pilot program is for five years and requires a \$50 payment to each state Medicaid benefit recipient for each completed well-child examination of that recipient parent's child, limited to one payment per child each year. This program sunsets on June 30, 2027; however, the 2022 Legislature only appropriated one year of funding for FY 23. Thus, state general funds are needed to be included in the MQD budget for the program to continue to make these incentive payments through June 20, 2027.

401PE-BF: BF Increase Payments for Healthcare Providers' Professional Services

This request is to increase reimbursement rates for most professional services (e.g., doctor's visits) to at least 75% of Medicare, up from its current approximately 60% of the Medicare fee schedule for many professional services. Given the significant number of Hawaii residents covered by Medicaid, healthcare providers who care for Hawaii's residents covered by Medicaid are receiving less reimbursement than they would have if the person's health care coverage were private coverage. This increase may help more providers to provide care to Medicaid recipients, and increased rates will assist providers in meeting the cost of care. The increase will occur halfway through the fiscal year, so only \$5,000,000 for FY24 and \$10,000,000 going forward.

Social Services Division (SSD)

HMS 301 – Child Protective Services

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST Description	MOF	FY 24			FY25		
				FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
301SA-01	8	Increase Special Fund Appropriation Ceiling for the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund	B			5,000,000			5,000,000
301SA-06	56	Position count adjustments	A	86.75			86.75		
301SA-06	56	Position count adjustments	N	(86.75)			(86.75)		
301SA-BF	NA	Adjust Funding of the 2 New FFPSA Positions from Act 248, SLH 2022	B			(43,406)			(39,372)
301SA-BF	NA	Adjust Funding of the 2 New FFPSA Positions from Act 248, SLH 2022	N			(43,406)			(39,372)

301SA-01: Increase Special Fund Appropriation Ceiling for the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund

The Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB) requests that the Spouse & Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) budget appropriation ceiling be increased to \$5,000,000.00 to align with Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which amended SCASF's ceiling amount in HRS. As noted above, CWSB needs a ready source of non-federal funds to implement Hawaii's Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) plan, Family First Hawaii. In addition to vital records fees, SCASF may receive federal reimbursements from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act when the state receives the reimbursements in the following fiscal year from which the Title IV-E funds were expended.

Previous requests to increase the SCASF ceiling in the budget have yet to be made, despite the increases in statute, and CWSB is limited to the current budget ceiling of \$1,163,425. As a result, CWSB can only retain this amount, while in the last two fiscal years, CWSB has 4th quarter reimbursements exceeding \$5,000,000 that end up going to the general fund. The table below reflects the federal reimbursements received by CWSB:

	QTE 6/30/21	QTE 6/30/22
Foster Care	\$3,473,757	\$2,468,490
Adoption Assistance	\$4,011,933	\$4,001,716
Guardianship Assistance	\$1,065,325	\$1,076,414
Total:	\$8,551,015	\$7,546,620

FFPSA requires upfront state or non-federal funds to access 50% federal reimbursement for approved prevention services. FFPSA also removed linkages to income eligibility, allowing states to expand the population that FFH may serve and claim reimbursement.

Therefore, with sufficient SCASF funds, CWSB could properly implement the FFH plan and receive additional federal reimbursements for abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services. The alternative would be to request general funds.

For background, FFPSA is a part of the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act. FFPSA reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families and children at risk of entering the child welfare system. FFPSA aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, in-home parenting skills training, and other approved services. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by requiring states to reduce the placement of children in congregate care settings. On August 11, 2021, the Federal Hawaii Administration of Children and Families (ACF) approved the Family First Hawaii Title IV-E Prevention Plan, effective January 1, 2021. Hawaii was the first of the Region 9 states to have its plan approved. CWS implemented the first phase of the Family First Hawaii plan on October 1, 2021.

Hawaii received a federal FFPSA transition grant to assist with developing and implementing its FFPSA Prevention Plan, Family First Hawaii (FFH). The FFPSA transition grant was a one-time payment of \$1,955,441. CWS expended the funds on systems modifications necessary to capture required FFPSA data and to procure contracted services. Since the transition grant was a federal fund, Hawaii could not claim federal reimbursements.

301SA-06: Position Count Adjustments

This request is a housekeeping matter to align the CWS position count with the adjusted personal services budget. Child Welfare Services (CWS) has 389.50 permanent authorized positions. Most of these positions are split-funded; they are state and federally funded. In FY 2022, the legislature adjusted the CWS personal services budget based on the program's Federal reimbursements, but the position count remained the same.

301SA-BF: Adjust Funding of the 2 New FFPSA Positions from Act 248, SLH 2022

Act 248, SLH 2022, provided excess salaries for FFPSA 92379K and 92378K; therefore, this request is to remove the excess salary. Refer to 301SA-51, 2022 Leg Worksheet for HMS 301 Seq #100-001. Act 248, SLH 2022, funded more than the regular salaries of the two Social Worker V positions. However, as these are FTE positions that are not exempt from civil services provisions, this request is necessary to align the salaries of the two positions with the current salary schedule for the Fiscal Biennium 23-25 to adhere to the collective bargaining agreement.

Act 248, SLH 2022 added two new Social Worker V positions for CWSB and the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

2022		2023		2022		2023		
SEQ #	Perm	Temp	Amt	Perm	Temp	Amt	Amt	
100-001				1.00		155,838 B	0.50	25,286 B
				1.00		155,838 N	0.50	25,286 N
SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST: ADD POSITION AND FUNDS FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (HMS301/SA). LEGISLATURE DOES NOT CONCUR. FROM SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND. BREAKOUT AS FOLLOWS: (1) PERM SOCIAL WORKER V SR24E (#92379K; 0.50N/0.50B; 54,694B/54,694N) (1) PERM SOCIAL WORKER V SR24E (#92378K; 0.50N/0.50B; 62,136B/62,136N) FRINGE BENEFITS (39,008B/39,008N)				SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST: ADD POSITION AND FUNDS FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (HMS301/SA). FROM SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND DETAIL OF GOVERNOR'S REQUEST: (1) PERM SOCIAL WORKER V SR24E (#92379K; 0.5N/0.5B; 25,286N/25,286B) 6-MONTH DELAY IN HIRE				

Nationally, with FFPSA, child welfare services focus on strengthening families instead of removing a child from the family by providing families with child abuse and neglect prevention or other support services. These two positions are necessary to oversee the FFH program's contracted providers, manage the policies and procedures, and input, collect, and retrieve data for this program. This paradigm shift from intervention to prevention in child welfare practice will direct how CWSB serves families. These two positions are vital to Hawaii's transition to providing prevention services to strengthen families and avoid removing children from the family home.

DHS Administration

HMS 904 - General Administration

Prog ID	Dept Priority	BUDGET REQUEST Description	MOF	FY 24			FY25		
				FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
904AA-08	24	Add Funds for Family Resource Center	A			605,000			605,000
904AA-06	41	Add Support for Commission on Fatherhood	A			4,000			4,000

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24		FY25	
904AA-04	52	Reverse Delay in Hiring Adjustment for 92343K HRS IV	A		33,312		35,496
904AA-01	55	Delete Positions and Funds for Office of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (Companion to 777HA-01)	A	(4.00)	(329,136)	(4.00)	(329,136)

904AA-08: Add Funds for Family Resource Center

This budget request for \$605,000 for FY24 and FY25 will continue the Family Resource Center Coordinator position and the Family Resource Centers (FRC) pilot program established by Act 129, SLH 2022. Act 129, SLH 2022, includes a five-year pilot program within DHS to fund one full-time equivalent (1.0) family resource center coordinator position. In addition, Act 129 requires DHS to 1) further develop and implement a state-wide network of school- and community-based FRCs; 2) establish definitions, standards, and best practices; 3) identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes; 4) develop referral and data tracking protocols; and Act 129 makes an appropriation for the family resource center coordinator position.

FRCs are community services hubs and offer opportunities to support and strengthen families. Linking residents to concrete supports such as financial assistance or health care coverage, activities, and programs reflect and are responsive to the community members' specific needs, cultures, and interests. Well-resourced FRCs are critical in preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families so children can thrive and excel in school.

The FRC coordinator works with existing school- and community-based FRCs and other stakeholders to develop FRC standards. The Act 129 FRC coordinator also works with the Department of Public Safety, family and community members, and stakeholders involved in the FRC and Visitation Center at the Waiawa Community Correctional facility.

904AA-06: Add Support for Commission on Fatherhood.

Act 156, SLH 2003, codified in Chapter 577E, HRS, established the State Commission on Fatherhood to provide a statewide program to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children. The legislature recognizes the vital role of fathers in raising children and in the health and well-being of families and communities.

Unfortunately, since its establishment, appropriations for the Commission have been limited and does not include paid staff position. Due to the lack of resources and changing membership, the Commission has struggled to meet its full potential as an advising body.

The Commission needs increased funding and a paid administrative assistant to move forward. Therefore, the Commission requests that its annual funding be restored to pre-COVID-19 levels to fund community outreach activities and to cover administrative costs, including travel.⁶⁶

904AA-04: Reverse Delay in Hiring Adjustment for 92343K HRS IV

The DHS Human Resources Office is required to conduct comprehensive employment background checks for nearly 650 positions. This request reverses the six-month delay-in-hiring adjustment applied against one new full-time Human Resources Specialist IV position 92343K, SR22C, BU73, authorized under Act 248, SLH 2022. This position is responsible for conducting comprehensive employment background checks, including Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint background checks, as required by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 1075 and Chapter 346, HRS, for all individuals selected to fill any of the department's approximately 650 positions which, by virtue of their job duties, have access to federal tax information (FTI).

DHS will also propose legislation allowing FBI fingerprinting checks for approximately 480 Social Services Division employees and new hires involved in providing direct client services for vulnerable adults and children.

Concerning IRS Publication 1075, the Human Resources Office must also recertify, every ten (10) years, the eligibility of current and existing employees to remain in the subject positions. DHS estimates that approximately 600 positions are subject to background check requirements, of which approximately 150 individual background checks are required for pre-employment and recertification per year. The legislative proposal to include Social Services Division positions will add approximately 75-100 checks per year, for up to 250 checks per year.

With the number of positions and employees impacted by the FTI background check requirement, existing staff cannot absorb the work required to manage this function for 650+ positions. In addition, DHS is mandated to conduct comprehensive background investigations for HYCF and the Serve America Act.

For many, the background investigation requires more than the fingerprint-based FBI and state criminal history record checks. Some require vouchering former employers, conducting national sex abuse registry checks, child and adult protective registry checks, and driving records. When an initial check reveals any negative information, staff must gather additional information from former employers or the individual before we can recommend a final decision on the individual's suitability for employment.

Staff also manage recruitment and examination activities, attend career and outreach efforts, and defend recruitment and examination challenges.

⁶⁶ See GM1 HMS 904 Adds Funds for OCE for Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood; GM 1 did not add administrative staff for the Commission on Fatherhood.

On average, DHS fills over 360 positions each year, a considerable volume representing more than the staff of several small departments.

904AA-01: Delete Positions and Funds for Office of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (Companion to 777HA-01)

Before Act 242, SLH 2022, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH) and staff led and coordinated statewide homeless policy efforts as a temporary Governor approved special project within program ID HMS 904 (DHS Administration) with five (5.00) temporary FTEs. In addition to personal services costs, \$15,000 in other current expenses were budgeted in HMS 904 to support the ongoing work of the GCH and staff.

With Act 252, SLH 2022, GCH will lead the SOHHS with five (5.00) permanent staff members to coordinate the statewide effort to end homelessness. However, Act 252, SLH 2022, did not provide appropriations for personnel costs, as the salaries for the GCH and staff were budgeted as temporary FTEs in HMS 904. Act 252, SLH 2022, only appropriated \$50,000 for the operation of the office. As an attached agency, SOHHS will have its program ID HMS 777, which becomes operational on July 1, 2023. This request is necessary so SOHHS, HMS 777, may use resources.

DHS Overall

Federal Fund Adjustment Requests

BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24					FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
220RH-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			7,345,985			7,345,985
222RA-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			8,786,498			8,786,498
224HS-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			20,000			20,000
237NA-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			94,214			94,214
401PE-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			184,188,651			184,188,651
401PE-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	P			2,323,769			2,323,769
802GA-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			2,767,346			2,767,346

902IA-FF	1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	P			300,000			300,000
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Form FF Reconciliation

Additional federal fund ceiling is requested based on a comparison of federal fund appropriations under Act 248, SLH 2022, and anticipated federal fund requirements for FY24 and FY25.

Department requests included in GM 1

DHS General Administration

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
904AA-12GA	9	Convert 1.00 Temp OA III 117103 in the Office of the Director to Perm	A	1.00	(1.00)		1.00	(1.00)	
904AA-10GA	37	904AA-10 adds funds for LGBTQ+ Commission Operational Expenses	A			20,000			20,000
904AA-14GA	39	Add Perm 1.00 FTE Sec II 94232K for OCE funds for Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood	A			2,400			2,400

Benefits, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD)

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
302DA-03GA	6	Operational expenses for Preschool Open Doors (POD) Expansion	A			500,000			0
305PK-01GA	6	Expansion of the Preschool Open Doors (POD) Program	A			38,800,000			38,800,000
224HS-07GA	8	Additional funding to increase all HPO contract amounts by 5%	A			1,320,000			1,320,000
236LC-03GA	13	Additional General Funding for Pohulani Lease	A			410,000			420,000
903FA-01GA	17	Continuous funding of rental assistance subsidies for First-to-Work program participants	A			1,552,000			1,552,000
903FA-01GA	17	Continuous funding of rental assistance subsidies for First-to-Work program participants	N			9,532,000			9,532,000
903FA-04GA	35	Add 3.00 Perm FTEs and Funds for SORS Office	A	1.59		42,440	1.59		88,213
903FA-04GA	35	Add 3.00 Perm FTEs and Funds for SORS Office	N	1.41		61,723	1.41		128,292
903FA-07GA	40	Add 2.00 Perm OA III positions and funds for Investigation Office	A	1.06		22,616	1.06		41,840

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
903FA-07GA	40	Add 2.00 Perm OA III positions and funds for Investigation Office	N	0.94		30,902	0.94		59,898
236LC-01GA	43	Additional funds for operating costs - security guards and move and renovation costs (Companion to 302DA-02GA)	A			543,253			543,253
236LC-01GA	43	Additional funds for operating costs - security guards and move and renovation costs (Companion to 302DA-02GA)	N			409,823			409,823

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
802GA-02GA	22	Ceiling increase for Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Account	W			669,800			669,800

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
401PE-BFGA	4	Increase payments to Private Professional Service Providers	A			25,000,000			20,000,000
401PE-BFGA	4	Increase payments to Private Professional Service Providers	N			42,833,212			42,393,822
902IA-04GA	33	Convert 2.00 FTEs from Temporary to Permanent	A	0.50	(0.50)		0.50	(0.50)	
902IA-04GA	33	Convert 2.00 FTEs from Temporary to Permanent	N	0.50	(0.50)		0.50	(0.50)	

Social Services Division (SSD)

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
301SA-07GA	7	Additional funds for contract services for Child Protective Services	A			2,450,000			2,450,000
301SA-03GA	15	Additional Funds for Other Current Expenses for Child Protective Services	A			1,809,461			1,809,461
303WP-01GA	14	Supplemental funding for Foster Care Board Payments	A			500,000			500,000
601TA-02GA	32	Add 2.00 Permanent RN IVs for Oahu (1.00) and West Hawaii (1.00)	A	2.00		114,324	2.00		236,424
901MA-02GA	26	Change means of financing and redescribe position #s 118589 and 46378, Social Service Aid Ills	A	1.20		73,094	1.20		75,170

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
901MA-02GA	26	Change means of financing and redescribe position #s 118589 and 46378, Social Service Aid Ills	N	(1.20)		(16,849)	(1.20)		(13,986)
901MA-01GA	42	Maintenance and enhancement of the DHS/SSD, Local Area Network	A			1,072,453			102,170
601TA-03GA	46	Additional Funds for Other Current Expenses for Adult Protective and Community Services	A			91,623			91,623

Descriptions of significant GM1 adds.

HMS 401 MQD - Increased Medicaid reimbursement rate for Health care professionals

Increasing Medicaid reimbursement to medical and health care professionals who serve Medicaid recipients is a top priority of Governor Green. MQD requests a general fund appropriation of \$25,000,000 for FY24 and \$20,000,000 for FY25 to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to be equivalent to 100% of Medicare rates for certain medical and professional health care services provided to Medicaid recipients. Added to budget request 401PE-BF, this equals \$30M GF for each fiscal year. MQD will need federal approval of the increase, allowing Hawaii to access federal matching funds of \$42,833,212 for FY24 and \$42,393,822 for FY25.

As of March 6, 2023, Medicaid enrollment has increased by 139,277 individuals (or 43%) since March 6, 2020, with a total enrollment of 466396, or one-third of Hawaii's residents. With this significant number of Hawaii residents covered by Medicaid, healthcare providers who care for Hawaii's residents covered by Medicaid receive less reimbursement than they would have if the resident had private health coverage.

In addition to the appropriation, MQD requests the proposed proviso to implement the increase:

"The additional general fund appropriation for medicaid (HMS 401) in the sum of \$30,000,000 or so much thereof and the federal fund appropriation in the sum of \$42,833,212 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum of \$30,000,000 general funds or so much thereof and the sum of \$42,393,822 of federal funds or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025, shall be expended by the department of human services, pursuant to section 346-59(b), HRS, to adjust individual practitioners' professional fees up to 100 per cent of the current Medicare reimbursement benchmark upon appropriate federal approvals."

HMS 224 BESSD - Request for additional general funds to increase all State HPO contracts by 5%.

This request is for additional general funds to increase all State HPO contract amounts by 5% to cover increased costs to deliver necessary homeless services without delay.

HPO contract providers are losing staff due to low salaries as contract amounts have not increased to match inflation. With staff capacity issues, providers are challenged to meet the demands of homeless individuals and families. In addition to personnel costs, providers need help to cover the increased costs of office supplies, equipment, office leases, utilities, and fuel.

Providers need additional resources to hire and maintain staffing levels confidently.

Following the 2009 recession, we saw more individuals and families experiencing housing instability and becoming homeless over several years. We anticipate increased homelessness due to continuing high costs, low housing inventory, uneven economic recovery impacting low-income individuals and families, and the end of the federal rental and utility subsidies.

HMS 236 BESSD - Additional funds for operating costs - security guards.

This is a departmental request for operating costs that support Processing Centers that serve residents applying for financial assistance and SNAP. These appropriations maintain a safe and secure business environment for residents and staff.

Additional funding for security guards is necessary at all processing centers during business hours to ensure the safety of participants and staff and to maintain order in Processing Center (PC) lobbies. Over the years, the cost of security guards has increased to \$28.12 per hour per guard. BESSD utilizes twenty-four (24) full-time security guard positions to fulfill this need.

No. of Security Guards needed	Hourly wage per guard	No. of hours per week	Total wages per week	Total wages per month (wage per week x 4.333)	Total annual wage for 24 security guards	Current BESSD Budget for Security Guards	Total Amount needed to cover cost
24	28.12	40	\$ 26,995.20	\$ 116,970.20	\$ 1,403,642.40	\$ 450,566.00	\$ 953,076.40

HMS 236 - Additional General Funds for Pohulani Processing Center Lease

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) Leasing Services Branch provides centralized office leasing services to all Executive Branch departments. The statewide program of the Leasing Branch is to lease commercial office space from private sector property owners when there is no available or appropriate space in state office buildings controlled by the DAGS.

DHS' previous lease (32-10-0353) for BESSD/Pohulani office with Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) ended on August 31, 2022. DHS subleases the fourth floor

in the Pohulani Building from HHFDC, not the private owner. DAGS informed DHS on 12/29/2022 that DAGS Leasing Branch will no longer pay for DHS' rent from September 1, 2022, onward and that DHS needs to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) directly with HHFDC since this will be an agreement between two state agencies.

HHFDC and DHS finalized the new lease (MOA) on 12/09/2022. With the new MOA provisions, BESSD will receive the entire Bill for Collection directly from HHFDC, including federal and state-funded amounts. Before the 12/09/2022 MOA, DAGS paid the state-funded amount, and DHS paid the federally-funded amount. BESSD does not have sufficient general funds to cover the state-funded cost and needs additional funds to pay HHFDC for the continuous use of the Pohulani Processing Center.

The Pohulani Processing Center services residents of East Honolulu and serves 12,132 financial and SNAP cases. It also includes a First to Work (FTW) (154 clients) and Child Care Licensing units (315 providers). Therefore, interruption of services would impact a significant number of residents and program operations.

HMS 305 BESSD - Expansion of the Preschool Open Doors (POD) Program

This request is a part of LG Luke's initiative to invest in early childhood and increase access to child care for Hawaii's 3- and 4-year-olds.

As indicated above, DHS estimates there will be about 9,297 keiki that may not have access to child care due to the lack of available classroom seats, and their families do not have enough resources to pay for a preschool experience.

POD has an annual appropriation of \$11,600,000 and provides subsidies to eligible four-year-olds. With this appropriation, POD serves approximately 1,400 children, with an average payment of \$680/month per child. Most preschools have monthly tuition costs that exceed \$680/month, requiring most families to pay the co-pay out of pocket. For some, even with the POD subsidy, the co-pay may be cost-prohibitive for low-income families. The cost of care often influences whether one parent or caretaker decides to forego employment or more education to care for their children. The decision to forego employment or pursue education has long-lasting economic impacts on the family as wage loss, work experience, and missing employment opportunities are difficult to make up over time.

This request for POD subsidy increases will be 100% general funds. This appropriation will allow DHS to issue an increase of up to \$1,500 for accredited child care and maintain the current approximate amount of children that the POD currently covers. With this additional appropriation, the total cost of the POD subsidy to service four-year-olds will be \$25,200,000 annually (\$1,500 x 12 months x 1,400 children), and the cost of serving both three and 4-year-olds will be \$50,400,000 annually.

HMS 302 BESSD - Operational expenses for Preschool Open Doors (POD) Expansion

This budget request is a priority of LG Luke to invest in early childhood and expand the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program to eligible three-year-olds. This request seeks additional funding to procure the service delivery system to process the additional applications, eligibility determination, and payment issuance of the child care subsidy to eligible families. This budget request is for the Hawaii Automated Network for Assistance (HANA) system modifications to process the additional POD applications and issue the monthly payments. POD subsidies are prioritized and ranked to allow seamless enrollment of returning three-year-olds as four-year-olds in POD, issue payments for three-year-olds, and capture and produce necessary reports.

HMS 903 BESSD - Continuous Funding of Rental Assistance Subsidies for First-To-Work Program Participants

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 66% of low-income Hawaii renter households spend more than 30% of their income on housing and utility costs. A family will need to earn about \$84,510 to rent a two-bedroom rental home in Hawaii.

Act 248, SLH 2022, amended Section 346-261, HRS, to establish housing assistance subsidies for TANF recipients participating in the First-To-Work program. The department may provide up to \$500 per month to help with housing costs for TANF-eligible families.

The average size of TANF recipient households is between 2 (33% of caseload) and 3 (26% of caseload) family members, of which 67% are single-parent families. TANF recipient families receive an average of \$709/month in TANF cash benefits or \$8,508 for 12 months. The total benefit is only 10% of the earnings needed to afford monthly rent for a two-bedroom home.

As of August 2022, 2,799 TANF recipients were participating in the First-To-Work program. Of this total, we estimate about 66% or 1,847 recipients have monthly housing costs. An estimated \$1,552,000 A funds and \$9,532,000 N funds will be needed to continue the First-To-Work housing assistance subsidies for FY24 and FY25.

The housing assistance subsidies will greatly help TANF recipients to make ends meet while they engage in the First-To-Work Program and participate in various work activities, so they become employable, obtain meaningful employment, and ultimately achieve financial independence. In addition, the state's investment will allow the Department to expend more federal funds from the TANF reserve.

Reference: https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/SHP_HI.pdf (www.NLIHC.org)

HMS 301 SSD - Additional Funds for Contract Services for Child Protective Services

Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB - HMS 301) provides protective services to vulnerable children and their families by receiving reports of suspected child abuse or neglect or children

at risk of abuse or neglect. CWS workers assess the safety of the family home by gathering information through interviews and collateral contacts. Initial efforts to develop a safety plan are completed to keep the child safely in the family home with support services. If safety concerns cannot be mitigated and placement is required, a search for relatives or kin is conducted to lessen the trauma of removal. Case management services focus on keeping families together, strengthening families, and building a forever network of support to address the future needs of the family.

CWSB has experienced an increase in the number of families being referred to CWS and its differential response system, comprised of contracted community-based programs. Between SFY2014 and SFY2018, CWS has experienced a 10% increase (2,227 – 2,448) in the number of intakes assigned to CWS for follow-up with safety and high-risk issues; CWS has also seen a 24% increase (2,231 – 2,759) in the total number of children in care each year.

CWSB maintains 103 contracts to strengthen families, address precipitating factors that lead to harm to the child, and strengthens CWSB's provision of protective services to our children and families. CWSB provides transitional services to youth leaving foster care and is the licensing agency for resource homes, child placing organizations, and child caring institutions. CWSB also coordinates sex trafficking screening and treatment services for minor sex trafficking victims.

Each year, CWSB receives requests from contract providers for additional funding because referrals for services have exceeded their capacity or they continue to lose staff due to the low salary rates based upon no increases in their contracts. At the end of each State Fiscal Year, payments of invoices must be postponed due to insufficient funds and are paid with the subsequent fiscal year funding. Late fee charges for invoices are going to be incurred each year. This request for additional funds will help the program align its payments within the same fiscal year in which services are rendered. Additionally, this request considers inflation and the lack of capacity in the social services professions due to the uncompetitive salaries of social services workers. Unless contracted providers can maintain adequate staff to provide services, families will not be provided adequate services, which will negatively impact the ability of CWSB to reunite children and their families in a timely manner.

Recent changes in the law have expanded CWS' responsibilities. The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 required state CWS systems to improve their response to the sex trafficking of minors by screening and identifying youth who are sex trafficking victims or at risk of sex trafficking and providing appropriate services. State agencies are required to report instances of sex trafficking to law enforcement. Hawaii CWS worked with community agencies to establish a reporting line for sex trafficking reports and contracted a provider to screen, assess, and treat minor victims. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 amended the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act by adding human trafficking and child pornography as forms of child abuse. Hawaii changed its reporting statute section 350, HRS, to include human trafficking as a form of harm. These laws expanded the responsibility of

CWS to reach all sex trafficked minor victims, not just those who are victims of abuse and neglect by their parents, guardians, or caregivers.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (PL 114-198), signed into law on 7/22/16, required State Plans to address the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of infants through a Plan of Safe Care.

Domestic violence is a chronic societal condition that impacts families with children. To assist families who experience domestic violence, the need for shelters is critical in preventing children from being removed from the care of a protective parent who has to leave an unsafe situation with their child(ren).

HMS 301 SSD - Additional Funds for Other Current Expenses for Child Protective Services

Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB - HMS 301) provides protective services to vulnerable children and their families by responding to reports of suspected child abuse, neglect, or children at risk of abuse or neglect. CWSB maintains 103 contracts to strengthen families that address precipitating factors that lead to harm or neglect as a part of CWSB's provision of protective services to our children and families. Although most contracts provide direct services, other contracts provide technical and support services.

Additional funds for other current expenses for Child Protective Services due to 1) rising costs of services being provided; 2) increase in services required by state and federal laws; 3) office leases; 4) operating supplies; 5) other current expenditures.

CWSB requests additional funding for contract providers who provide technical or support services. Similar to contracted providers who provide direct services to families, contracts with providers who provide technical assistance for the data systems and consultation services have not increased, despite inflation and the increased services provided so that CWSB can meet the current requirements of state and federal laws. For eligible expenses, federal reimbursements will be claimed at the appropriate rate.

This request also considers increased lease amounts for privately owned offices that CWSB occupies on Oahu, West Hawaii, and Maui. The landlords are increasing all leases, and there are no State-owned spaces that these offices can move to. Additionally, at the advice of the Department of Accounting and General Services, the Maui office is being relocated, and CWSB is responsible for all the moving costs and modifications necessary at the new space.

The costs of operating and current expenditures have also increased with inflation. Paper copies of all reports are still required for court hearings, which results in high copying costs. Office furniture is also deteriorating and needs to be replaced for the safety of workers. Costs for telephone services (landlines for phones in the office and cell phones for workers in the field) have also increased.

Our Other Current Expenses budget has remained the same despite the increased costs and it has been more than seven years since any contract services were increased. Currently, we only do supplemental contracts for those contract services that exceeded their annual goals and because of the delay in services due to long wait lists that families are on before they can receive services. Since we don't have enough funds for any increases, we must defer some of our payments to the next fiscal year. If we don't have sufficient funds, we will always have carryover expenditures to be paid using the next fiscal year budget.

HMS 303 SSD - Supplemental Funding for Foster Care Board Payments

This request is for funds to cover the costs of foster board payments for youth in foster care that receive Social Security benefits and for foster youth with high needs. We are challenged to find appropriate temporary shelter care for foster youth with complex needs while awaiting treatment or a long-term placement.

For foster youth receiving Social Security benefits, CWS cannot claim federal foster care board reimbursements for them; as allowed by federal regulations, DHS uses their Social Security benefits to reimburse the State for foster board payments. Without any reimbursement from Social Security benefits, State funds must be used expended for their monthly foster board payments.

While the Social Security Administration allows states to use Social Security benefits to reimburse foster care board payments, House Concurrent Resolutions 117 HD1/House Resolution 17 HD1 (2022) requests that DHS immediately cease intercepting Social Security payments for children in foster care. The resolutions also request the DHS to deposit Social Security payments for foster children into savings accounts, which the children may access when they return to their families, are adopted, or age out of foster care.

Requested general funds will also allow CWS to address the emergency placement needs of children in foster care that require specialized care due to their behavioral health and developmental needs. The additional funds will match the monthly board rate that the Department of Health (DOH) provides for the care of adults that require similar specialized care. For example, as children with developmental delays and severe mental health issues grow older, their caregivers find it more challenging to provide or meet the child's daily care needs, which results in the request for these children to be cared for elsewhere.

Unfortunately, CWS does not currently have available emergency foster homes trained to provide appropriate care for children with developmental delays or severe mental illnesses. CWS is currently exploring with DOH how to provide special foster care licenses to homes certified by the Department of Health (DOH) to "foster" adults who currently do not have clients in their homes to provide foster youth with care. However, DOH provides a significantly

higher monthly board payment than CWS. Having the same board amount may encourage certified homes to accept a youth in foster care.

HMS 601 SSD - Add 2.00 Permanent RN IVs for Oahu (1.0) and West Hawaii (1.0)

This is a budget request for one (1) Adult Protective Community Services Branch (APS) additional Registered Nurse (RN) in the Oahu Section and one (1) APCSB Registered Nurse (RN) in the West Hawaii Section. These positions are new and need to be fully funded. Currently, APCSB Adult Protective Services sections have the following RN staffing: West Hawaii Section has no RN staff; Oahu Section has 3 RNs; Maui Section has 1 RN (also serving the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai); Kauai Section has 1 RN; and East Hawaii Section has 1 RN.

The two Oahu investigation units in APS employ three Registered Nurses (RNs) and twelve Social Workers (SWs), with SWs assigned as lead investigators. This low RN to SW staffing ratio limits the RNs to completing only the most urgent nursing assessments and alleged abuse follow-up. An additional investigational RN will improve teamwork between the units' RNs and SWs, communication with health care providers, and collaboration with protective and residential resource partners.

Most APS reports continue to be from Oahu's aging urban population. Most alleged victims reside in their own homes with reports of caregiver neglect, self-neglect, or psychological abuse. The alleged perpetrators are often relatives, the victims themselves in the form of neglecting their own welfare or staff employed by facilities. The challenges faced by APS include alleged victims who are increasingly medically complex with both physical and mental health impairments, a severe lack of health care providers, and very limited or nonexistent support from family or friends.

The characteristics of vulnerable adults reported to APS demonstrate the need for comprehensive nursing health assessments of the vulnerable adults' health problems, functional capacity, and urgency of care needed about the reported abuse. After assessing the vulnerable adult, RNs arrange, coordinate, and monitor the vulnerable adults' health care services until the vulnerable adult is in a safe or less vulnerable situation.

RNs are essential when investigating alleged abuses in hospitals, community residential settings, nursing facilities, and other health-related locations to assess the patient and resident, interpret facility policies, review facility records, review patients' and residents' facility records, and interview the family of the vulnerable adult and facility staff for abuses or violations. Nursing assessments of alleged abuse and protective services are unique to APS; there are no community nursing resources that complete such assessments.

The COVID pandemic has changed the availability of community services for the immediate term, and possibly permanently, for people with disabilities and the elderly. Services that have

continued to assist are limited due to a lack of staffing; thus, other protective alternatives must be sought.

The West Hawaii investigation unit has two SWs and one Social Service Assistant but no RN. In the past, this unit has "borrowed" the RN from the East Hawaii unit, but this practice has been too prohibitive with East Hawaii's increasing caseload and long commutes to West Hawaii locations. In SFY 2022, the West Hawaii unit received 44 investigations; the most frequent types of abuse included 14 cases of Caregiver Neglect and 10 cases of Self Neglect. These two forms of abuse, in particular, require a thorough health assessment of the alleged victim and the health care and services of the alleged victim to be provided by the caregiver(s) or the alleged victim. Alleged victims in rural areas often do not seek or receive medical treatment; thus, illnesses go undiagnosed or untreated.

Presently, the West Hawaii unit must rely on reports from mutual health care providers involved with the alleged victim to obtain official health/medical histories, diagnoses, and treatments. This search would be unnecessary if the West Hawaii unit had its own RN to triage new cases and seek and obtain relevant medical reports before seeing the alleged victim in person. This would allow the RN to know the neglect situation before entering the alleged victim's residence.

In addition, the definition of "caregiver" is any person who has knowingly and willingly assumed to care for a vulnerable adult's health, safety, and welfare. After assessing the alleged victim, the RN would know the health care and service needs of the alleged victim and be able to analyze and evaluate the client with the SW as to whether the alleged neglect is the result of the caregiver or the alleged victim. As a licensed health care professional, the RN would know the expectations and responsibilities of licensed health care providers, compensated para-professionals, or family and friends doing their best with very limited resources. A West Hawaii RN will improve the timeliness of health assessments, evaluation of alleged abuses, and partnership with acute medical facilities, long-term care providers, and community health resources in West Hawaii.

HMS 901 SSD - Maintenance and enhancement of the DHS/SSD, Local Area Network

This request is to keep existing DHS Network infrastructure equipment (hardware, software, and services) up to date with annual support/service renewals and scheduled replacements, which the Division relies on for its data management systems. New technologies are also needed for new requirements as required by the federal government and for security purposes.

The major systems requiring replacement are:

1. The Backup System for the files accessed by the computers needs a tech refresh. The equipment is nearing the end of life support on 12/31/2023. It is critical that

this backup system is running on supported hardware to ensure data is backed and can be restored; and

2. For the back-end technology at the SSD units, which includes the computers, data network equipment, and file/print servers, which are also reaching their end of the refresh cycle.

The intended outcome is to better serve SSD's existing and new clients by having reliable computer equipment so that workers can process cases more efficiently.

Without this approval for replacement hardware, SSD will no longer have support for the backup system and the back-end technologies. If the equipment fails, it cannot be fixed because the vendor no longer supports the technology. For the back-end technologies, the equipment is reaching its end of life of 5 to 8 years, and replacement is necessary. Without replacements, the rate of failures begins to increase and negatively impact user productivity. The need for up-to-date, functional hardware and software is necessary for daily operations and staff to adequately do their work.

HMS 802 DVR - Blind Vendors – Increasing the spending ceiling of the Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Funds

With vending machines and sites in federal and State facilities, DVR's Blind Vendors' business state-wide suffered significantly. Blind Vendors lost revenue during Emergency Proclamation lockdowns, transitioned to hybrid work schedules and minimal public foot traffic, and continue to struggle due to inflation. Delays in renovations to blind vending facilities are needed. Therefore, the spending ceiling of the Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Funds account must be higher to cover planned expenditures. Inflation has increased expenditures, including blind vending stand renovations, equipment, inventory, health care coverage, and retirement costs to blind vendors. The current ceiling of \$1,330,200.00 is too low. Adding \$669,800 to the current ceiling will address projected expenditures of \$2,000,000 per annum.

As an example of the increasing expenditures incurred during the pandemic, the program's budget for repair and maintenance costs in FY 2021 (\$20,102) increased in FY 2022 (\$27,832) by 38%; equipment replacement costs increased by nearly 53% from \$11,055 in FY21 to \$17,011 in FY22; refurbishment of facilities costs increased by more than 77% (FY21 expenditures were budgeted for \$72,125, and FY22 expenditures totaled \$128,229). In addition, the increased refurbishment costs are projected to increase by 67% in FY23 per the approved budget of the Committee of blind vendors.

HMS 802 - CIP Ho`opono building complex

DVR's Ho`opono building complex requires capital improvement funds to maintain and repair the complex's air conditioning equipment and fencing. The air conditioning equipment is in an

uncovered outdoor mechanical area and exposed to the elements and vandals. The area's wooden fence is also surrounded by a wooden fence in disrepair, allowing individuals to access the area after hours, which could damage this equipment. DVR requests CIP funds to protect the recently installed and replaced mechanical equipment from the elements and potential vandalism.

In addition to enclosing the mechanical area and improving fencing, the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) recommended retro-commissioning fixtures and systems and exterior painting of both Ho`opono Building A and B. These buildings, erected in 1964, need maintenance to maintain operations and services, health and safety, and to prolong the life of the buildings.

Descriptions of some of the department's requests that were not included in GM1.

HMS 224 BESSD Additional General Funding for Homeless Shelters Electricity

This request aligns with Governor Green's high priority in addressing homelessness. HPO requests general funds to pay for electricity costs at all four homeless shelters in the Kalaeloa area.

The State owns four homeless shelters in Kalaeloa:

- Hale Ulu Pono is a transitional homeless shelter with 66 units that can serve up to 66 individuals.
- Kumuhonua is a transitional homeless shelter with 65 units serving up to 130 individuals and couples.
- Onelau'ena is an emergency homeless shelter with 63 units that can serve up to 200 individuals in families.
- Onemalu is a transitional homeless shelter with 40 units that can serve up to 175 individuals in families.

HPO pays for the electricity to the shelters that the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) supplies. The cost of electricity has significantly increased over the last few years. In FY21, HPO paid \$194,435; in FY22, HPO faced an increase of 23.7% and paid \$240,573. In FY23, electricity costs continue to increase as HPO has paid \$188,296 for the first six months and is estimating the final cost for FY23 to be \$376,592. This increase is supported by the "Consumer Price Index - June 2022," which reports that electricity prices rose 13.7%, the largest 12-month increase since April 2006.

HMS 236 BESSD - Additional funds for operating costs – renovation costs

Koolau PC renovation costs - Koolau PC is currently in two different locations. DHS plans to consolidate the thirty-eight (38) staff into one location. These funds will allow all Koolau PC staff to work in one location, reconfigure the space to accommodate workstations, allow for confidential workspaces, and modernize the workspace to complement the workflow of the PC's business process. Koolau PC currently has an active caseload of 5,671 cases. Re-configuring this workspace and bringing all staff together will improve the processing center's functionality, effectiveness, and efficiency to ensure that payments for windward families with current active cases and applications for assistance are determined and processed timely.

HMS 302 BESSD - Operational expenses for Preschool Open Doors (POD) Expansion

The POD services provided to eligible four-year-olds are through the contract at \$536,000 annually. To meet the applications for three-year-olds, DHS requests an additional \$536,000 in general funds to provide POD subsidies to families of three-year-olds.

DHS' long-term plans are to eventually bring this capability in-house to expedite the expanded three-year-old population. Procuring the services will allow parents and caregivers to access POD subsidies as soon as possible and entails contracting for these POD services.

As discussed previously, Act 46, SLH 2020, established the goal to provide all keiki ages 3 and 4 with preschool enrollment by 2032. Act 210, SLH 2021, delayed implementation of POD for three-year-olds and other changes. There will be an additional legislative proposal to make further amendments to the POD program for the coming changes.

With current services, DHS estimates that of the projected 35,272 3- and 4-year-olds statewide, there may be 9,297 keiki that will not have access to limited classroom seats, and families lack resources to pay for a preschool. Also, DHS estimates that half of the 9,297 keiki are three-year-olds.

This request is related to a different budget request (above) for an additional \$38,800,000 annually to permanently increase subsidy rates paid during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to support families' ability to pay and access POD programs.

HMS 302 BESSD - Additional funds for establishing a new child care subsidy unit.

Though planning for this request was ongoing before the Green Administration, this request is aligned with LG Sylvia Luke's priority to invest in early childhood and expand access to child care for Hawaii's families.

The request is to fund child care subsidy operating cost funds to establish a central Child Care Subsidy Unit (CCSU) in the Waipahu Civic Center. The Waipahu CCSU will determine eligibility, promptly process child care subsidy applications, and effectively administer the federal child

care funds appropriated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families. Having the CCSU in a central location will allow more timely and efficient eligibility determinations and processing of child care subsidies to eligible families and minimize and eliminate the pending case backlog. In addition, this effort will allow families to enroll their children in child care while they look for employment or continue their education.

In FY22, DHS, using contracted vendors, received more than 6,400 applications for child care subsidies serving 6,000+ families and over 8,900 children in the State. In FY22, DHS expended over \$67M in childcare payments and anticipated expenditures of up to \$84M to process over 8,000 applications for FY23. Historically, the contracted vendors carried a backlog of 1,400 or more child care applications per month and could not meet the timeliness of processing applications. As a result, families experienced significant delays, several months on average, thus leaving many families to delay the start of child care.

In 2022, Act 248 authorized DHS's request to bring the child care subsidy program CCCH and POD in-house to improve application processing and reduce wait times. Act 248 established twenty-five (25) new BESSD positions for this transition to meet DHS' goal to improve efficiency, timeliness, and communication with families regarding child care assistance.

HMS 802 DVR - Five additional positions to support WIOA

DVR requests five additional positions state-wide the support Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance Measures federally required under Hawaii's Unified State Plan. The positions will also support the documentation requirements and monitoring for federal reporting on outcomes and compliance.

One Social Service Assistant IV position will be in the Maui Branch and one in Oahu's Services for the Blind Branch (SBB). These positions will provide vocational services that address unemployed or underemployed individuals with identified disabilities and document services provided for job placements.

One Employment Service Specialist IV position will be in Maui Branch and one in the Hawaii Branch in Hilo. These will serve rural VR participants accessing remote work and self-employment opportunities in communities with limited access to resources, transportation, and employers.

DVR's Human Services Professional III position will support the SSB New Visions program state-wide to reinforce independent living skills in residents' homes or the community to strengthen job retention and self-sufficiency skills. DVR is proposing to use federal fund amounts of \$141,601 for FY24 and \$283,202 for FY25 from other current expenses for the federal fund portion of the salaries of the five new positions.

Additionally, the WIOA performance measures required by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration related to employment post-exit outcomes represent the need to engage DVR participants in Hawaii's workforce early in their VR program services. Early engagement reinforces participants' ability to retain or advance in employment related to their career goals.

The Employment Specialists in Maui and Hawaii Counties will reinforce transitional employment services, self-employment planning and implementation, and job development. These activities require documentation for Hawaii's VR participants who gain and retain employment post-exit from VR services.

DVR's Employment rates for the 2nd and 4th quarters after exit in PY21 were 34.7% and 34%, respectively. These rates indicate the need to strengthen job retention skills before exiting DVR services. DVR's Employment Specialists will support VR participants in Maui and Hawaii counties once the two proposed Employment Specialist positions are approved and filled.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 300, Relating to the State Budget

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") supports H.B. 300, which provides appropriations for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025 to fund the operations of the Department that will enable the Department to administer the tax laws of the State of Hawaii'i in a consistent, uniform, and fair manner. The Department offers the following comments to support and clarify the Department's significant budget requests contained in H.B. 300.

1. Funding for Tax System Modernization (TSM) Maintenance and Monitoring

This request adds \$11,359,926 to the budget for FY24 and \$7,198,030 to the budget for FY25. The maintenance of the Department's modernized integrated tax system, known as TSM or GenTax, is essential to the Department's collection of tax revenues. TSM has automated many of the Department's operations, including the processing of returns and payments, the sending of notices and correspondence, billing, fraud detection, revenue accounting, and the capture of data for various compliance, audit, and other purposes. Proper maintenance and monitoring of TSM is needed to prevent the system from failing, which could jeopardize the timely and accurate collection of tax revenues. Funding is also needed to enable the Department to

implement tax law changes, continue verification services to assist in fraud detection, and to upgrade the application code, which is no longer being supported by Microsoft.

2. Increase Spending in ITSO (OCE)

This request adds \$495,000 to the budget for FY24 and \$295,000 to the budget for FY25. This request will modernize the Department's phone system, upgrade computer software and hardware, improve call center capacity, improve IT security, and enable remote working capabilities. Modernizing and upgrading the Department's technology will enable more efficient and secure operations and better service to taxpayers. The requested funding will also allow the Department to comply with IRS audit and security requirements.

3. Fund Unfunded Deputy Director of Taxation Position

This request adds \$161,028 to the budget for FY24 and \$165,048 to the budget for FY25. This request is to restore funding for the Deputy Director of Taxation, which was previously unfunded due to the position being left vacant under the former administration. The Deputy Director of Taxation is vital to the operations of the Department and was thus filled by the current administration.

4. Establish and Fund Positions and Increase Spending for Neighbor Island Offices

This request adds \$541,914 to the budget for FY24 and \$902,144 to the budget for FY25. This request is to establish new positions, as well as reestablish positions that were abolished in 2021 during the financial crisis caused by Covid-19. This request also includes funding for a modernized phone system, training expenses, and office upgrades for neighbor island operations. This request will enable the provision of better services to our growing neighbor island communities and increase compliance efforts to detect and address tax fraud and non-compliance on the neighbor islands.

5. Fund Positions for Taxation Board of Review

This request adds \$533,859 to the budget for FY24 and \$546,579 to the budget for FY25. This request is needed to fund the new unified statewide Taxation Board of Review established pursuant to Act 218, SLH 2022 and Act 118, SLH 2021. The Taxation Board of Review is important because it offers taxpayers an alternative, less formal, avenue for appeal.

6. Establish Two New Positions in Oahu Field Audit Branch

This request adds \$160,368 to the budget for FY24 and \$166,128 to the budget

for FY25. This request is needed to fund two new field auditor positions on Oahu, established pursuant to Act 217, SLH 2022 to audit claims for the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit.

7. Establish and Fund Two Management Analyst II Positions in the Criminal Investigations Section

This request adds \$56,280 to the budget for FY24 and \$116,592 to the budget for FY25. This request is to add two Management Analyst II positions in the Criminal Investigations Section to assist with tax fraud detection. Fraud detection and enforcement are essential to improving voluntary compliance with tax laws and to hold tax evaders accountable.

8. Fund Half-Year Funded and Unfunded Positions

This request is to fund the following positions that are currently only half-funded:

- Delinquent Tax Collection Agent III, Hilo
- Delinquent Tax Collection Agent III, Kaua'i

This request is to also fund the following positions that are currently not funded:

- Tax Return Examiner II, Oahu
- Tax Return Examiner II, Oahu
- Tax Return Examiner II, Oahu

The foregoing positions were established pursuant to Act 248, SLH 2022, but they were not fully funded. This request adds \$307,884 to the budget for FY24 and \$323,268 to the budget for FY 25. Full funding is needed to enable the Department to fill these positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and ask the Committee to pass this measure with the recommended amendments.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 300
Relating to the State Budget

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which establishes the budget for fiscal years 2023-2025. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) supports this bill, and in particular, an additional appropriation for AGS 105.

OIP assists the **general public and all State and county agencies in every branch** of Hawaii's government in understanding and applying the UIPA and Sunshine Law **with only about half the budget and number of employees that it had 29 years ago in 1994 when OIP administered only the UIPA.** In 1994, OIP had 15 positions and the inflation adjusted equivalent of \$1,591,384. In FY 23, OIP has 8.5 positions and a total budget of \$809,377.

With this lean staff and resources, OIP has managed until now to resolve 97% of all requests for OIP's services in the same year of the request, and 89% are typically resolved the same day through the Attorney of the Day (AOD) service providing informal answers to varied questions from anyone: the public, State and county agencies, board member volunteers and staff, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, media, and even nonresidents. For disputes that cannot be

resolved informally, OIP accepts appeals that take much longer to resolve as they require written opinions that serve as OIP precedent and could be challenged in court. Although OIP has brought down the age of pending appeals from 12 years in FY 2011 to roughly 3 years today, the number of appeals in its backlog has increased nearly 70% since the start of COVID when OIP lost 4 of its 8.5 employees and has had to train 3 new attorneys and an administrative assistant. OIP's workload has also grown, particularly with the doubling of AOD inquiries in FY 22 over the prior year, the need for extensive revisions to Sunshine Law training materials following the adoption of new remote meeting provisions that went into effect on January 1, 2022, and interim legislative work.

OIP essentially operates as a specialized law firm for all of Hawaii that impartially assists anyone who asks--including government and private sector attorneys--and it must neutrally resolve disputes that typically arise between government agencies or boards and the general public. Fortunately, OIP has two highly experienced attorneys who have worked at OIP for 20-25 years, but they are very close to their limits in training new personnel and doing their own work. To keep up with its increasing workload, resolve its backlog of appeals, and be prepared for future challenges, OIP can no longer do more with less and it desperately needs additional personnel and funding now.

Last year, SB 3252, CD 1 would have provided OIP with two new positions (attorney and legal assistant) and \$185,000 in additional funding. Unfortunately, that bill was vetoed by Governor Ige due to its other provisions, so OIP did not receive the funding or new positions. OIP has recently reviewed comparable government salaries and now realizes that \$185,000 would have been inadequate to allow OIP to recruit and retain experienced attorneys, who are being paid more than OIP's current Director or senior attorneys.

Unfortunately, OIP did not have this updated salary information in time for our budget requests to the new Administration last year. Although Governor Green has since approved OIP's supplemental request to hire a legal assistant for half of FY 24 at \$35,000 and all of FY 25 at \$70,000, OIP also needs another staff attorney position and salary parity funding for existing personnel to attract experienced candidates and retain valuable institutional memory for the only agency that uniformly administers two important open government laws applicable to all State and county agencies and also serves the general public.

Therefore, OIP is respectfully requesting an additional general fund appropriation in FY 24 of **\$272,500** for salary parity increases and half-year funding for two new positions (1 staff attorney at \$145,000 for full year funding since the position description already exists, and 1 legal assistant at \$35,000 for half-year funding since the new job description must be established), plus **\$324,000** for full-year funding in FY 25. **When added to the current budget requests for AGS 105, OIP's total budget would be \$1,128,926 in FY 24 and \$1,205,209 in FY 25 for a total of 10.5 FTE positions**, still less than the inflation-adjusted allocation and number of personnel that it had in 1994.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
DATE: March 8, 2023
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT with comments for HB 300** which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 203-2024 and 2024-2025.

The Commission appreciates the support to the public charter school system shown in the general fund appropriation for EDN 600 which provides the operating funds to charter schools. The Commission is available to provide any information and support as this budget moves forward through this legislative session.

For EDN 612, which primarily consists of two distinct components- the operating funds for the Commission and the operating funds for the Early Education Learning program in charter schools, the Commission has requested **\$1,358,075** in general funds for the Early Learning program for both years of the upcoming biennium in its budget requests. It appears that the current, proposed budget provides a portion of restored Early Learning program funding for both years of the biennium.

This funding would have restored the Early Learning program to the funding level provided pre-pandemic. The Commission is requesting this funding to sustain its current Early Learning program which would allow the program to continue meet the State’s high expectations and commitment to early childhood education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee On Finance
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB300 that appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

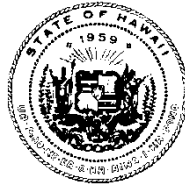
Last year, HTDC programs secured \$72.5 million in federal funding to support economic development activities in Hawai'i. \$62 million of the funds are for the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) to expand access to capital for small businesses in Hawai'i. HTDC's INNOVATE Hawai'i continues to increase its annual federal appropriation aided by its perfect 100 scorecards. HTDC's Hawai'i Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies secured \$7.2 million in federal funding for renewable energy efforts at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

HTDC core programs assisted over 300 companies providing technical and financial support for innovative small businesses from the startup stage through growth and export. HTDC core programs include the Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) grants, Hawai'i Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) grants, and accelerator programs. These programs are critical in establishing a pipeline of growing innovative companies in the State.

We would like to ask for your favorable consideration in including the budget adjustments listed in the Governor's Message #1 which includes restoration of salary for the technology marketing specialist for HTDC and a CIP appropriation for the First Responders Technology Campus.

HTDC programs provide tremendous economic development leverage to the State. HTDC looks forward to continued support from the State legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

10:00 AM, March 8, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308

In consideration of
HB 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 300, relating to the State Budget.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **strong support** of HB 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. It is our sincere hope that the House Draft 1 incorporates the proposed changes in Governor's Message (GM) 1 for the HPHA.

The HPHA's mission is to provide Hawaii's residents with adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and suitable living environments that are free from discrimination through both its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves our state's most disadvantaged populations, including families earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income, the disabled, and the elderly.

HMS 220 – Rental Housing Services (Public Housing)

CIP Appropriation (FY 24 \$10,000,000 and FY 25 \$10,000,000) for Public Housing Development, Improvements, and Renovations Statewide

The purpose of this request is to protect the assets and residents of the HPHA. Both the federal and state public housing programs are historically underfunded. Many buildings are in need of major repairs and renovation, while some dwelling units have been rendered completely uninhabitable. This appropriation would enable the HPHA to:

1. Improve the health and safety of the housing provided to existing residents;
2. Protect the physical assets of the HPHA's public housing inventory from further deterioration, thereby reducing future expenditures on rehabilitation or new construction;
3. Ensure compliance with federal property requirements and condition standards; and
4. Beautify the neighborhoods where public housing is located.

The repairs, maintenance, improvements, and renovations this appropriation would allow for vary in nature. Work will include, but not be limited to, installing fire sprinklers and other safety systems; repairing gas lines; HAZMAT abatement; upgrading electrical, plumbing, and sewer systems; and improving accessibility and security at multiple properties. Building exterior work will include, but not be limited to, painting; concrete spall repair; roof repairs; solar water repairs/replacement; weatherproofing; and other physical improvements. Building interior work will include, but not be limited to, general renovation work; major modernization; interior repairs; termite repair and treatment; and painting. Site work will include, but not be limited to, landscaping; tree removal; tree trimming; drainage improvements; termite treatment; sidewalk repair; and foundation repair.

HMS 222 – Rental Assistance Services (Section 8)

Add General Funds (FY 24 \$6,000,000 and FY 25 \$6,500,000) to Maintain the Current Rent Supplement Subsidies for the State Rent Supplement Program

The RSP is a State-funded rental assistance program. It was established to assist middle-income families above the poverty threshold, but still struggling to afford the high cost of living in Hawaii. The program was originally designed to assist teachers, policemen, and firemen, but was later amended to include very low-income families. The RSP has a maximum monthly rental subsidy of \$500. As of December 2022, the RSP is helping 198 participating households remain housed. The program is facing a deficit of approximately \$500,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

The additional funding increase proposed in GM1 shows the Administration's commitment to assisting families that are at-risk of homelessness to remain housed and financially secure. The

HPHA would like to humbly request three (3) additional Public Housing Specialist II positions and one (1) Public Housing Supervisor IV if appropriated with the additional funding.

HMS 229 – HPHA Administration

Convert 3.00 FTE Positions from Temporary to Permanent and Add Funds for Equipment

For the past several years, it has been difficult to fill temporary Civil Service positions while competing against the permanent Civil Service positions in recruitment from other State departments. In order to continue the Management Unit 8/Kauai operation, the agency has been hiring a former Public Housing Supervisor III who retired on an 89-day appointment. Candidates invariably prefer the permanent positions over temporary positions. It is already extremely difficult competing against private sector recruitments. Converting the temporary positions to permanent positions will at least help to level the playing field against other State departments recruiting for the same position.

Additional revolving funds are also being requested for computers and chairs. The original equipment that came with these positions are old and outdated. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring compliance with computer standards and the current computers run the Windows 7 operating system.

The HPHA is aware of the many competing priorities in need of additional support during these trying times. The HPHA humbly requests that this funding be made available to help provide safe and decent housing to our community's lowest-income families.



LAND USE COMMISSION

Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR

DANIEL ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Fax: (808) 587-3827
Website: luc.hawaii.gov

March 7, 2023

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
House Committee on
Finance

Wednesday March 8, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
HB 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa; and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The LUC supports the Governor's budget as the minimum necessary to continue LUC functions. However, we would note that the proposed budget does not contain sufficient funds to cover personnel costs with expected bargaining unit increases in FY 24 and 25.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) **supports** House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget, and offers the following comments.

The Commission created through Act 179/SLH 2019 (HRS Chapter 353L), for the purpose of 1) ensuring transparency, 2) supporting safe conditions for employees, inmates, and detainees, and 3) providing positive reform towards a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system, is submitting testimony in support of its budget request.

Since its inception in 2020, the Commission has made significant progress on building oversight in the state of Hawaii, particularly since the hiring of the first Oversight Coordinator in July 2022. With the hiring of the Oversight Coordinator, the oversight office officially opened. The Oversight Coordinator prioritized visiting all eight local facilities (four jails, four prisons) and the private facility in Arizona. The Coordinator has posted seven monthly reports (encompassing actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month) in addition to two facility-specific reports and a strategic plan. All reports are available to the public through the Commission's [website](#) and social media pages ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)). These reports are the beginning stages of building transparency in the state of Hawaii. Additionally, the HCSOC has hired a Special Assistant and is in the process of hiring a Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist to assist with overseeing the 4,000+ inmates in this jurisdiction.

During this session, it is the Commission's intent to seek additional funds surpassing the budget sheet submitted to the legislature by the Office of the Governor. With your support, the Commission can continue to build off of this important progress being the first corrections oversight agency in the state.

Included in the budget in front of you is a total of four positions and \$534,388 for both FYs of the upcoming biennium. Respectfully, the Commission would like to address the budget request *initially* submitted which included seven positions (four being brand new) and \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395

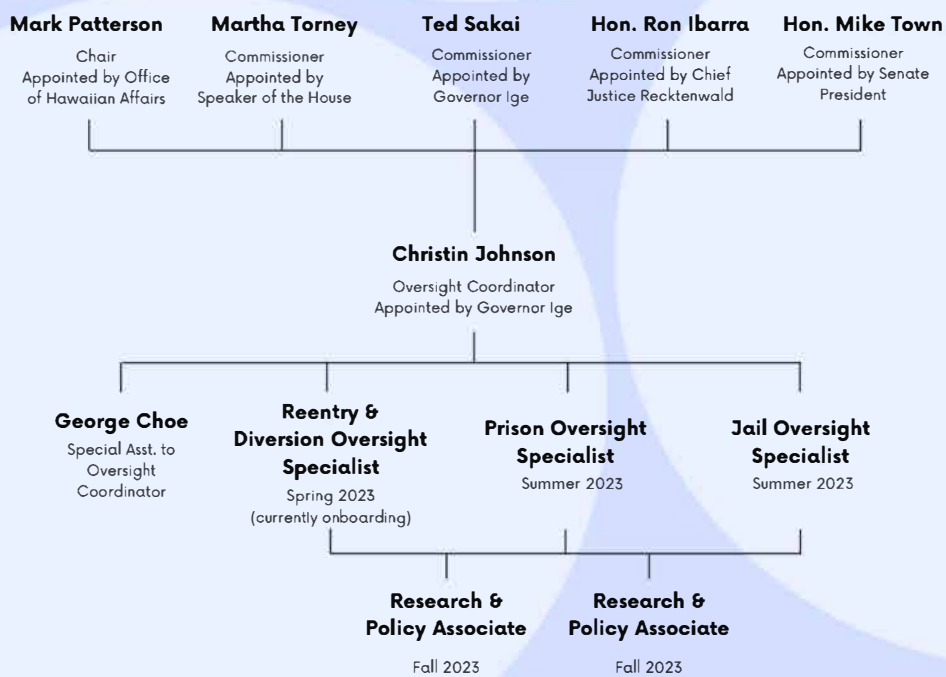
House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
House Committee on Finance
March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

FY25. All seven positions (two of which encompass professional investigative staff) are imperative to the Commission's mandate. In accordance with HRS 353L, the Commission is required to 1) investigate complaints at all correctional facilities, 2) facilitate a transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model, 3) establish inmate population limits for all correctional facilities, and 4) monitor/review the comprehensive offender reentry program and ensure its effectiveness. To achieve these ends, the Commission must have dedicated staff to administer the operations of the Commission in accordance with HRS 353L.

Attached to this letter are two documents, 1) an organizational chart pulled from the HCSOC 2023-2024 Strategic Plan, and 2) the original justifications submitted for consideration by the Governor's office. The budget justifications reflect the office, travel, and personnel needs in order to establish responsible, efficient, and transformative oversight practices in the state of Hawaii.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-900-2200 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCSOC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



State of Hawaii
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
Budget Justifications
January 19th, 2022

Commission Chair
Mark Patterson

Commission Members
Hon. Ronald Ibarra (ret.) Martha Torney
Hon. Michael Town (ret.) Theodore Sakai

Oversight Coordinator
Christin M. Johnson

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) established a new office in July 2022 after hiring its first Oversight Coordinator. This budget reflects the office, travel, and personnel needs in order to establish responsible, efficient, and transformative oversight practices in the state of Hawaii.

In Accordance with HRS 353L, the Commission shall:

- (1) Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model;
- (2) Establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility; Work with the department of public safety in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, including facility educational and treatment programs, rehabilitative services, work furloughs, and the Hawaii paroling authority's oversight of parolees. The commission may make recommendations to the department of public safety, the Hawaii paroling authority, and the legislature regarding reentry and parole services; and
- (3) Ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.

To achieve these ends, the HCSOC is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25.

Personnel Services Justifications

Oversight Coordinator (\$175,056+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, the governor appointed the Oversight Coordinator from a list of three nominees submitted by the commission, and the oversight coordinator of the commission shall be paid a salary set at one hundred percent of the salary of the director of human resources development.

Special Assistant to the Oversight Coordinator (\$86,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall handle general office tasks and administrative duties, such as directing communications between people in custody, friends/family members, community members and the Commission. This position will assist with the intake and organization of complaints.

Jail Oversight Specialist (\$125,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall oversee the State's jails (Hawaii Community Correctional Center, Kauai Community Correctional Center, Maui Community Correctional Center, and Oahu Community Correctional Center) and “investigate complaints at said correctional facilities and facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.”

Prison Oversight Specialist (\$125,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall, oversee the State's prisons (Halawa Correctional Facility, Waiawa Correctional Facility, Kulani Correctional Facility, the Women’s Community Correctional Center, and one facility houses Hawaii inmates on the mainland: Saguaro Correctional Center) and “investigate complaints at said correctional facilities and facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.”

Reentry Specialist (\$125,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall, “ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.”

Research & Policy Associate (\$90,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall, “conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the operation and the administration of correctional system laws in effect in other states or countries, any literature on the subject that may be published or available, any federal laws that may affect the operation of the correctional system, and the reaction of residents to existing and potential features of the correctional system in order to recommend or effect changes that will tend to serve the purposes of this chapter.” The research will inform policy recommendations, legislative changes, and public reports from the Commission.

Research & Policy Associate (\$90,000+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, this position shall, “conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the operation and the administration of correctional system laws in effect in other states or countries, any literature on the subject that may be published or available, any federal laws that may affect the operation of the correctional system, and the reaction of residents to existing and potential features of the correctional system in order to recommend or effect changes that will tend to serve the purposes of this chapter.” The research will inform policy recommendations, legislative changes, and public reports from the Commission.

Other Expenses Justifications

Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel (\$25,000+/year)

Of the eight Hawaii-based correctional facilities, one of the jails and three of the prisons are located on the island of Oahu. The other four correctional facilities are located on each of the major islands. Therefore, staff and Commissioners must be able to travel to the Big Island, Kauai, Maui on a consistent basis to ensure transparency, safe working conditions for employees, safe humane living conditions for people in-custody, and to provide positive reform towards a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system, in accordance with HB 1552. This allocation allows inter-island Commission meetings with each Commission present, facility tours for Commissioners and staff, and includes airfare, car rental, daily per diem, airport parking, and as-needed lodging for night or weekend tours.

Mainland Correctional Facility Travel (\$20,960+/year)

One facility houses people in custody from Hawaii on the mainland: Saguaro Correctional Center. This facility is located in Eloy, AZ. Staff must be able to travel to the Saguaro Correctional Center on a quarterly basis to ensure transparency, safe humane living conditions for people in-custody, and to provide positive reform towards a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system, in accordance with HB 1552. This allocation allows quarterly visits and includes airfare, car rental, daily per diem, airport parking, and lodging.

Memberships and Conferences (\$7,100+/year)

In accordance with HB 1552, the Oversight Coordinator shall understand and continue to study the operation and the administration of correctional system laws in effect in other states or countries. Therefore, the HCSOC are active member of the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). For over 25 years, NACOLE ha worked to support independent civilian oversight that leads to more effective policies and correctional standards and safer communities. NACOLE offers academic symposiums, an annual conference, webinars, regional training, and reports and training materials. This allocation allows two staff (or one staff, and one Commissioner) to attend the annual conference and better understand the operations and administration of correctional systems across the country. Additionally, this allocation allows all HCSOC commissioners and staff to be members of NACOLE and have access to

additional training materials. More information about NACOLE can be found at <https://www.nacole.org/>.

Special Projects and Consultation (\$115,000 – one time cost)

In accordance with HB 1552, the HCSOC must establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility. Due to the significant overcrowding found in each of the jails, the HCSOC finds it imperative to hire an expert consultant for a Bed Utilization Project and a Population Limit Study.

The Bed Utilization Project will help HCSOC and the Department of Public Safety to understand how all beds are being filled with the current classification system and policies and procedures in place. For example, the Commission has found that the Department classifies people in custody at a higher rate than most correction agencies in the country. Higher-custody beds like Maximum-Custody cost the state more money than lower custody levels due to cells being used instead of dorm settings. An expert consultant can help the State understand why people in custody are classified at higher rates and help initiate a plan to adjust policies, procedures, and potentially state law to better manage the population in the most safe, humane, and cost-efficient way possible. This will allow staff to focus and follow through on the findings and allow faster results by hiring an expert consultant whose main or only focus would be this project.

After the study to ensure beds are being utilized in the most efficient way possible, an expert consultant will be hired to conduct a Population Limit Study. This will set the standard of what exactly constitutes as overcrowding and will allow staff to have specific standards to oversee when touring the facilities. This is a *one-time cost* that can be used as opposed to hiring a specific staff member to focus on bed utilization and overcrowding.

Equipment Justifications (\$11,279+)

All equipment includes the initial setup for new staff coming on board. Therefore, this cost includes laptops, keyboard and mouse combos, webcams, and other basic necessities to work towards the goals and mission of the HCSOC. Most costs are a *one time cost* until the equipment needs to be repaired or updated. General office supplies (pens, paper, sticky notes, etc.) are also included within this category. All the equipment listed in the budget is necessary to fulfill the requirements listed in HB 1552.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.
CLAYTON H.W. HEE
MILTON H. KOTSUBO
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

by
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman
Hawaii Paroling Authority

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Edmund "Fred" Hyun from the Hawaii Paroling Authority and I am writing to request that you consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new, opened in July 2022, it is important to ensure they are properly funded to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

This measure improves the work of the Commission to, among other things, advance the correctional system in the State toward a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at (808) 587-5601 or at edmund.k.b.hyun@hawwaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

PRESENTATION TO:
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

March 7, 2023

Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the House
Committee on Finance.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency
Management Agency, and Director of Homeland Security.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in SUPPORT of House
Bill 300 with comments.

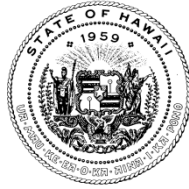
The Department of Defense would like to thank House Finance for supporting DODs
Executive budget request. Highlights in DODs request include:

1. \$5M for the post-disaster Major Disaster Fund
2. an additional \$2.5M in General funds to be able to access an already approved
federal match of \$4.5M. (\$24.7M of Hazard Mitigation federal funds with a \$6.9M
state match was approved in FY23 supplemental budget. Total grant funds are now
estimated at \$29.2M with a \$9.4M State Match)Hawaii National Guard Youth
Challenge Academy (\$6.7M annually) CFDA 12.404 (model is \$25K)
3. \$700K salary increases for all eligible program positions for the Hawaii National
Guard Youth Challenge Program. 2012 was the last salary increase approved for
YCA. [13 years ago].

4. \$21.4M in various Capital Improvement Projects, of which \$12.2M are in Bond funds and the remaining requests of \$9.2M is in federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB300. If you have any questions or need additional information to our response, please contact our Administrative Services Officer COL (retired) Rusty Spray at (808) 369-3458 or at rusty.spray@hawaii.gov.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 8, 2023
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Additionally, the DOT respectfully asks for your consideration of the additional budget requests for the department as included in Governor's Message 1.

Specifically, the DOT requests additional funding for equipment for the island of Kauai under program ID TRN 561; additional funds for the Civil Identification Program under program TRN 597; and additional funds for debt service under TRN 595; funding of EV (electric vehicle) charging stations services and EV services under TRN 501, TRN 511, TRN 531, and TRN 561; and additional funding under program ID TRN 995.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



MAKAKILO/KAPOLEI/HONOKAI HALE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 34

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING THE APPROPRIATION OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE
SARATOGA AVENUE ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATION
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the current electrical infrastructure in Kalaeloa community development district (KCDD) is owned and managed by the US Navy; and

WHEREAS, the KCDD has struggled with unreliable utilities for years that is an impediment to further community development in the KCDD; and

WHEREAS, the state budget includes an appropriation for an electrical and communications infrastructure corridor to be constructed, with a 12kV underground electrical distribution line built to HECO standards, on Saratoga Avenue from Enterprise Avenue to Hornet Avenue, at a cost of \$12,125,000 (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS the Project will provide reliable power to residents, businesses, and landowners in that downtown area of KCDD; and

WHEREAS, the Project will also support economic growth, including additional housing and commercial development resulting in additional jobs and opportunities; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 supports the appropriation of sufficient funds for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER RESOLVED that Neighborhood Board No. 34 supports the intent of S.B. 2176 (2022) and H.B. 1600 (2022), and requests that the Hawaii State Legislature appropriate CIP funds in the amount of at least \$12,125,000 for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism - Hawaii Community Development Authority (BED150) for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Council Members, Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Executive Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority, and all Neighborhood Boards.

**Adopted by Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 at its
February 26, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, 7-0-0.**



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Room 308

10:00 AM

HB 300 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT COMMISSION BUDGET

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,981 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety/Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 917 - 24.4% of the male imprisoned population² - are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this opportunity to testify in strong support of fulfilling the legislature’s mandate in Act 179 (2019) by fully funding the Hawai`i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission (Commission) budget.

To meet the Legislature’s mandate, HCSOC is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25:

- **7 positions:** Oversight Coordinator, Office Assistant, Jail Oversight Specialist, Prison Oversight Specialist, Reentry Specialist, Research & Policy Associate, and another Research & Policy Associate

¹ Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, February 28, 2023.

https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2023-02-28_George-King.pdf

² Why are 24.4% of Hawai`i’s male prison population sent thousands of miles from home when the following prisons in Hawai`i have room here: Halawa is at 75%; Halawa Special Needs Facility is at 60%; Kulani is at 44%; Waiawa is at 53% of operational capacity.

- **Other Expenses:** Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel, Memberships and Conferences, Special Projects and Consultation, Bed Utilization Project and a Population Limit Study, and Equipment.

The need to fully fund this important agency that has already demonstrated their ability to provide professional oversight, reports, and recommendations for Hawai'i's correctional system cannot be overstated.

A read of the February 21, 2023 Hawai'i Labor Relations Board Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Decision and Order³ makes very clear the need for oversight for this agency that is riddled with problems.

One of the main problems stems from a person hired to be the ACO trainer and use of force expert who lied on her resume and then remained silent while being protected by the former Director Nolan Espinda (who committed suicide on May 19, 2022). Here are a couple of excerpts from page 50 of the decision under the heading - **3.6.2.5. Wilfullness of PSD's Conduct:**

"The Board finds the requisite wilfullness for PSD's violations of HRS § 89-13(a)(1) based on the conduct of Espinda, Cook, and Martinez, all of whom had knowledge of the questions regarding Martinez's lack of qualifications for the FTSP and continued to both remain silent and inhibit the disclosure of the truth by subterfuge. Martinez's wilfull conduct is obvious.

(...)

The wilfullness of Espinda's conduct is proven by his misrepresentations and failures to disclose the questions regarding Martinez's qualifications to the PSD hearings officers and the Union and to require a thorough investigation into her FTSP qualifications."

Even without Director Espinda, there are many people who still work for the department and continue to follow the direction of Espinda. This makes oversight essential if Hawai'i has any hope of NOT being taken over by the federal government, as has happened in the past.

One need only look at [the horror that is Rikers Island](#) to realize that even court-sanctioned consent decrees do not always solve deep-seated problems.⁴

³ STATE OF HAWAII'I, HAWAII'I LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, In the Matter of JONATHAN TAUM, Complainant(s), UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO; and DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, State of Hawai'i, CASE NO(S). 17-CU-10-357 17-CE-10-906, DECISION NO. 514, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, DECISION AND ORDER, FEBRUARY 21, 2023. <https://labor.hawaii.gov/hlrp/files/2023/02/Decision-No.-514.pdf>

⁴ Independent Oversight Is Essential for a Safe and Healthy Prison System, Michele Deitch, November 3, 2021. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/independent-oversight-essential-safe-and-healthy-prison-system>

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the Finance Committee to fully fund the Commission's budget request if we have any hope of transitioning from the punitive and deceitful system to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model that respects human dignity.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our enthusiasm for the Commission that has proven themselves to be a great model for transparency, accountability, and community engagement.



March 6, 2023

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer
Maui Economic Opportunity

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday, 3/8/2023, 10 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 308 via videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Debbie Cabebe from Maui Economic Opportunity, and I am writing to request that you consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25, which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new (*office opened in July 2022*), it is important to ensure that the office is properly funded to fulfill mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

Adequate staff is needed to support a comprehensive reentry system and ensure the timely and correct release of inmates with comprehensive support and follow-up post-release.

Hiring staff to research and understand systems and laws that affect reentry and how they apply in Hawai'i is critical to strengthening Hawai'i's reentry services. Staff must participate in ongoing training to ensure they have they are current on the rules, regulations and best practices related to reentry.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at (808) 243-4300 or at debbie.cabebe@meoinc.org. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Debbie Cabebe, SHRM-SCP
Chief Executive Officer

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:06:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Aloha,

Nancy Redfeather



Hilo Office: 80 Pauahi St., Ste 203
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Ph: (808) 491-2437 / Fax: (808) 498-0315
Kona Office: 75-5708 Alahou St., Apt 2C
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Ph: (808)-464-4003 / Fax: (808) 464-4288
email:goinghomehawaii@gmail.com
www.goinghomehawaii.org

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Les Estrella, President & CEO
Going Home Hawai'i

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: March 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Les Estrella from Going Home Hawai'i, and I am writing to request that you consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new (*office opened in July 2022*), it is important to ensure they are properly funded to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

Independent correctional oversight is absolutely essential for a safe and healthy correctional system. Oversight is critical to fixing the inhumane treatment that persons in custody suffer and provides the ability to identify and investigate unconstitutional practices, unacceptable conditions and violations of federal, state and local law. This applies not only to those in custody, but also to the correctional officers and staff who work inside the prisons. Importantly, oversight can recommend improvements and safeguards needed to be put in place to *prevent* recurrences of problems.

Adequate funding is needed to support and continue the goals of the HCSOC. Successful oversight translates directly to savings in taxpayer money and leads to a significant reduction in reoffending and recidivism.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at 808-491-2437 or at goinghomehawaii@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Les Estrella
President & CEO
Going Home Hawai'i

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Jennifer Vollen-Katz, John Howard Association of Illinois

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday, March 8, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Vollen-Katz, I am the Executive Director of the John Howard Association of Illinois (JHA). JHA is an independent, nonpartisan, not for profit prison oversight organization that has been monitoring all of the adult and juvenile state prisons in Illinois for over 120 years.

I write to respectfully request that you support the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes funding for seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is new (*office opened in July 2022*), it is important to ensure that it is properly funded to fulfill the mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

The importance of the work of the HCSOC cannot be overstated, nor can the impact this office can have on improving outcomes for people who are detained and incarcerated, the corrections system, public safety and in responding to issues and offering changes in order to avert litigation against the State. Authorized oversight of the carceral system is critical to the democratic goals of system transparency and government accountability. The work of the HCSOC is fundamental to good government; monitoring the closed system of corrections where sight lines to behavior, conditions and treatment are unavailable to the public is an

important guardrail in a just, fair and equitable system. If properly resourced and supported, the HCSOC stands to become a national model for correctional oversight.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at jvollen@thejha.org or (331)264-4081. I appreciate your consideration of this testimony and funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Vollen-Katz".

Jennifer Vollen-Katz
Executive Director
John Howard Association of Illinois



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 300: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/8/2023; 10:00 AM; CR 308 and via videoconference**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 300, on issues of housing assistance, homeless services and affordable rental housing**. 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 over 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.

We support the following sections of this bill:

Page 33: Increased funding for rental assistance (HMS 222): **We strongly support increased funding to the Rent Supplement Program** at HPHA. This Program requires about \$2 million to continue to provide monthly rent help to the CURRENT recipients. *The majority of recipients are kupuna who may face homelessness if their subsidy is withdrawn.* While we must continue to create new rental housing, rental assistance is the solution for the immediate housing needs of our residents. With this, rents that are out of reach become possible for many working families and kupuna. Rental assistance can prevent homelessness and help struggling families to remain in Hawaii by lowering their overall cost of living. **We support the request in the Governor's budget for \$6 million in FY24 and \$6.5 million in FY25, in order to provide relief to our working families, kupuna, and our residents swamped by inflation and high rents.**

Page 33: Steady funding for homeless services (HMS 224): These funds will enable a range of proven, successful homeless services to remain stable. We appreciate the legislature's support for these critical Core Services. **We also urge that it is now time to put these vital services into the base budget going forward.** These programs have been stuck at the same funding level for many years, resulting in difficulty hiring staff and continuity of services. Reliable ongoing and sufficient funding is needed to continue to move the homeless off our streets and into permanent housing. **We support an increase in funding to cover the true costs of services.**

BED 160: We support \$300 million to HHFDC for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) statewide. **If Hawai'i is to end homelessness, it must create more affordable rental units to prevent homelessness and enable our local families to remain in Hawai'i.** New affordable rentals are needed in each county to help struggling households that are being priced out of market rentals. The Rental Housing Revolving Fund has a proven track record to work with its partner developers to create this housing. We also support other bills now being considered by the legislature that would increase funding to the RHRF. We urge your support to add funding in



the budget for the RHRF to serve the most vulnerable in our State, with incomes of 60% AMI or below.

Page 36: Funding the Statewide Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions (SOHHS) and continuing funding for Ohana Zones: For this statewide office to work effectively, it needs staff and operations funding. We support the proposed 5 permanent positions and the operating budget. The extensive coordination performed by this office requires efficient and effective permanent staffing. We also support the funding for Ohana Zones to continue these pilot programs. These projects allow the counties and service providers to work together creatively to try new alternatives to test them before scaling up the most effective options.

We urge your continued support for creating more affordable rental housing and housing related services.

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

**TESTIMONY ON HB 300
(Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission)**

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: March 8, 2023 (10:00 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** the Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission (HCSOC) budget requests of \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 for FY25. The current Oversight Coordinator has done remarkable work with limited resources, including site visits that have uncovered poor conditions (a "[terrible mess](#)") and range of problems (e.g., an electronic medical records system that has reached a point of "[absolute crisis](#)"). This funding is vital to support staff positions that can provide additional oversight, facilitate successful re-entry, and recommend needed policy changes that advance sound penological practices.

The Oversight Coordinator issued [two monthly reports this year that merit close reading](#) and attention. These reports are in stark contrast to the vacuous platitudes and vague assurances that the Department of Public Safety (PSD) has forwarded to the Legislature and the public for decades. Hopefully the prospective PSD director, once confirmed by the Senate, will embark upon much needed reforms that will improve conditions and ensure efficient and effective delivery of services. This includes pre-release planning that, at minimum, ensures continuity of medical care, expeditious receipt of available government support, and the prospect of safe and stable housing.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i 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, and have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Unfortunately, under-investment in behavioral health treatment and supportive housing have made them prone to protracted involvement in the criminal legal system, [including a probation system that has the longest average term in the nation](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Molly Gill, Vice President of Policy, FAMM

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Gill and I represent FAMM, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit sentencing and prison reform organization in Washington, DC. Because our national membership includes tens of thousands of incarcerated people and their families, one of our priorities is to increase accountability and transparency in corrections by supporting independent prison oversight nationwide. We are encouraged that Hawai'i has established the Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). However, the Commission's work is impossible without the correct levels of funding and staff to perform the important tasks of inspecting prisons, investigating complaints, liaising with Corrections Division officials to solve and prevent problems, and reporting and distributing the ombudsperson's findings and recommendations to the public and stakeholders.

FAMM urges you to support the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25, which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new, it is important to ensure it is properly funded to fulfill its mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L. In our experience looking at other similarly sized prison oversight bodies in states like Ohio and New Jersey, this budget request is reasonable.

Prisons are some of the darkest, least transparent places, and they are responsible for the daily care and safety of thousands of incarcerated people and corrections staff. Prisons operate 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Legislative committees, audits, and accreditations can examine prisons only sporadically. Properly funded, the Commission can encourage and foster transparency, accountability, and improvement in Hawai'i prisons every day.

Prison oversight is worthy of funding because it benefits everyone. Lawmakers must fund and monitor the Corrections Division but cannot be inside prison facilities on a daily basis. The Commission can do continuous, frequent reconnaissance for state lawmakers, verifying or debunking rumors, successes, failures, needed improvements, or use of funds and resources.

Oversight is beneficial for both incarcerated people and corrections staff because unsafe, unhealthy, and unaccountable prisons harm both groups. A trusted, effective oversight body provides a safe place for incarcerated people, their families, and corrections staff to take

complaints and concerns when, for whatever reason, they fall on deaf ears, the grievance process breaks down, or there is no other safe place to lodge them.

Oversight benefits Corrections Division administrators by highlighting problems they might otherwise miss and helping to fix problems before they turn into crises or produce expensive law suits for the state. Everyone performs and behaves a little bit better when they know someone is watching them. Oversight encourages professionalism in corrections.

Oversight benefits taxpayers by shedding light on what prisons are really like, how they spend our taxes, and how they treat and rehabilitate our loved ones and neighbors. Taxpayers collectively share the fiscal and moral responsibility for incarceration and restoring those who break the law. Oversight shows taxpayers how our money and our chosen prison policies are helping restore and rehabilitate people inside – or not.

The Commission's budget request is reasonable for its size and mandate. Oversight does not happen without proper funding, and it is worth funding because it benefits every Hawaiian.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at mgill@famm.org. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT of HB300

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

Women's Prison Project strongly supports HB300, which would fund the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25. This includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. This appropriation is needed to ensure that HCSOC is properly funded at a level that allows it to fulfill the mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

The conditions in many Hawaii's corrections facilities have been shown to be dangerous, unhealthy, and in violation of the basic human rights of incarcerated individuals. It is critically important that the requested HCSOC staff are funded. Trained HCSOC staff can support corrections officials to better understand and meet federal requirements and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the inmates for whom the State of Hawaii is responsible. Recently disclosed conditions in some facilities make Hawaii at great risk of a federal consent decree that would become costly and would effectively take the corrections system out of the State's control. Lawsuits in other states have shown the potential for huge settlements against states for poor prison conditions and practices. A fully funded, active HCSOC, provides protection to the State of Hawaii and also helps provide a humane rehabilitative environment for those who are incarcerated.

Women's Prison Project urges you to pass HB300 and fund HCSOC so that it is assured the capacity to fulfill its mandated mission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB300.

Linda Rich
On Behalf of Women's Prison Project



Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. The Hawai'i Counselors Association Executive Board supports HB 300 with amendments to include the University of Hawai'i's budget request, which in part supports the UH Hilo master's program in counseling psychology. The UH Hilo master's program prepares mental health counselors and provides quality education and training. It is the only UH System program designed specifically to train mental health counselors. The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports hiring two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much-needed support to the residents of Hawai'i.

Mental health professionals are needed now more than ever. About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Furthermore, our Native Hawaiian communities are disproportionately impacted by mental health challenges, substance use, and suicide. These challenges have been exacerbated as a result of the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UH Hilo master's program in counseling psychology helps to address our community's mental health needs. To meet the unique geographic needs of Hawai'i, the program has evolved to be a hybrid distance education program that educates students across the state. Approximately 20 highly-trained graduates of the program enter the workforce each year. As a graduate of the program, I can attest to its value. As part of the inaugural cohort, I have witnessed the growth and development of the program and know firsthand the positive impact it has had on our communities since its inception in 2005.

HB 300 with amendments to include the UH budget request supporting the UH Hilo master's program in counseling psychology will help the program continue to develop and provide a much-needed service to the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill and share our support for the master's in counseling psychology program at UH Hilo.

Sincerely,

Christine M Park, PhD, LMHC, NCC
President, Hawai'i Counselors Association



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONS OMBUDSPERSON
WHITTLESEY ROAD
P.O. BOX 855
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

Terry Schuster
Corrections Ombudsman

March 6, 2023

Re: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Terry Schuster. I'm the Ombudsman for New Jersey's prison system. I'm writing to urge adequate staffing and funding of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission, and to share my thoughts on the value of such an entity for the public, lawmakers, and the Department of Corrections.

My office's annual budget is \$2.1 million, which is about 0.2% of the Department of Corrections budget in my state. What that investment buys is sufficient staffing (21 FTE) to have people on-site in nine prisons, inspecting facilities, surveying incarcerated people, answering hotline calls, gathering data, and holding community meetings.

A corrections oversight office like mine is not a prosecutor office looking to hold individuals accountable for wrongdoing. The office is not gathering evidence for lawsuits against the Department of Corrections. There's no axe to grind. The goal is to spot problems and trends before they metastasize—to help the Department assess whether its policies are being followed and whether its policies might need to change in order to better carry out its mission. Success for a corrections oversight office doesn't look like corrections staff being fired or headlines slamming the Department of Corrections for abuse and neglect. Success looks like incarcerated people in the state feeling hopeful about their futures, staff feeling proud of the impact they had on the lives of those in their custody, and the public feeling confident that people coming back home from prison are better prepared to be good neighbors.

My Ombudsman office includes several staff members who come from the Department of Corrections. They believe in the value of Corrections to turn people's lives around. They've seen the system's shortcomings from the inside and came to the Ombudsman office hoping to make the Department of Corrections better. The Ombudsman office is a thought-partner for solving difficult system-wide problems. Incarcerated people are much more forthcoming with the Ombudsman office than they are with correctional officers and administration. Our access to the people held in custody allows us to give quick and thorough feedback to facility and agency leaders. We are a key player helping the DOC enforce its own policies with staff, because we have eyes and ears on the prisons, and prison staff act differently when they're being monitored. Because we are an independent office, we can also authoritatively give credit to the Department for things they are doing right, correct the record when misinformation is spread

about prison conditions, and defend decisions of the Department that may be unpopular or misunderstood by skeptical members of the public.

Lawmakers expanded the reach and mandate of my office in New Jersey in response to physical and sexual assaults at the state's only women's prison. The message to the public was: This won't happen again, not on our watch. Even absent a scandal, though, lawmakers benefit from oversight in a variety of ways. When they pass laws impacting prison services or programming, they have a set of independent eyes in the Ombudsman to determine whether those laws have been implemented. When constituents call with concerns about conditions in a prison facility, lawmakers can dispatch the Ombudsman to look into the issue and follow up. The creation of an Ombudsman office helps ensure that the performance metrics for a Department of Corrections are not limited to the number of people confined, released, and returned for new crimes, but include big questions of public interest: Are people in our state prisons safe? Are their health needs being addressed? Do they have meaningful access to their loved ones? And are they engaged in purposeful activity to ensure they come out better than they went in?

My office regularly meets with the correctional officer and civilian staff unions to hear their priorities, to share trends that we're seeing, and to get input on policy recommendations. Our on-site Assistant Ombudsmen also routinely hear from staff in the prisons about institutional concerns that we may be able to help with like barriers to implementing certain policies and miscommunications between custody staff and nursing staff.

Members of the public most often contact my office when they're not getting a response from the Department of Corrections and they feel concerned, helpless, and upset. This past month, we've gotten calls and emails saying: My son arrived at this prison two weeks ago and hasn't gotten toilet paper or a change of underwear. My brother keeps asking to be seen by a doctor and getting denied. I traveled a long way to visit my family member in prison and they wouldn't let me in. It's February, the heat isn't working, and my loved one still hasn't gotten a coat. These are mundane everyday needs that in the free world people can handle on their own, but that can become pain points in a setting where some people exercise control over others.

Sometimes when something is going wrong in prison, it was merely overlooked in the hustle and bustle of running a secure facility. Sometimes it comes about because of systemic problems like under-staffing or lack of communication between siloed offices. Importantly, there are also times when the issue reflects an abuse of power. An independent and properly staffed corrections oversight office can help the Department catch small things that fall through the cracks, draw attention to systemic issues that impact everyone behind bars, and also access people held in even the most isolated parts of state prisons to ensure they are not being harmed or treated unfairly.

Oversight allows for access and understanding among people who might otherwise feel suspicious, angry, and in the dark about what's happening in our state prisons. By creating transparency, it builds credibility and public trust for this large and powerful arena of state government. I encourage you to appropriate adequate funding to staff the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. Please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way.

Best,

Terry Schuster
New Jersey Corrections Ombudsperson



Office of
Legislative Corrections
Ombudsman

Keith Barber
Ombudsman

P.O. BOX 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Phone: (517) 373-8573
Fax: (517) 373-5550

ombudsman@legislature.mi.gov

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Keith Barber, Ombudsman
Michigan Legislative Corrections Ombudsman

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keith Barber from Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman in Michigan and I am writing to urge you to consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new (*office opened in July 2022*), it is important to ensure they are properly funded to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

I have worked at Michigan's Legislative Corrections Ombudsman office for over 35 years, the last 14 years as the Ombudsman with direct responsibility for the operation, management, and funding of our oversight agency. We share similar oversight responsibilities as the HCSOC and it has become clear to me over the years the key to operating an oversight agency with that level of statutory responsibility requires adequate funding and staffing.

As you may know, approximately 70% to 80% of the funding for a service agency of this nature is for employee costs. These are highly specialized positions that require adequate funding to attract appropriate staff for the many responsibilities that encompass Corrections oversight. Attracting professional people who are the best fit to fulfill the mission of the agency begins with a commensurate salary.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions. I can be reached at 517-373-9996 or at kbarber@legislature.mi.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this important matter to your attention.

Sincerely,

Keith Barber
Ombudsman



March 7, 2023

RE: HB 300 – Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division Budget for Home and Community Based Services

House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

I am submitting this letter in regard to the proposed **Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division’s Budget for Home and Community Based Services** on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii and the families we serve. Easterseals Hawaii provides Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Programs to 250 adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in nine locations statewide. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can choose their own path. **The proposed Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division budget includes HCBS program deficits of \$2,800,000 and \$6,300,000 respectively for fiscal years '24 and '25 which will deprive families of essential services.** These deficits will have rippling effects throughout Hawaiian communities and economies.

Lisa is a single parent who relies on HCBS for her daughter, Tahtyana. HCBS make it possible for Lisa to work outside of the home. If Tahtyana loses any of her HCBS services, Lisa will be forced to choose between keeping her job and caring for Tahtyana. If HCBS is not fully funded, families like Lisa and Tahtyana’s will require financial assistance for paid care or to compensate for lost income.

Furthermore, the loss of HCBS will result in deterioration of recipients’ skills and decreased access to community activities. This in turn will deprive the community of valuable members and the economy of valuable contributors. Some HCBS recipients will not be able to function in home settings without these services. Adults with disabilities will be forced to leave their families to receive care in residential facilities. The cost of providing residential treatment will exceed the cost of HCBS in many cases, and facilities which are already strained will require increased funding to serve an influx of consumers.

Failing to fully fund HCBS will rob individuals of essential resources, tear apart families and communities, and necessitate increased funding for alternative care. **Easterseals Hawaii strongly urges you to fully fund the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division’s Budget for Home and Community Based Services.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "apettiford".

Andrea Pettiford
Chief Executive Officer
Easterseals Hawaii



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
The House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Conference Room 308, 10:00 A.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: Support for H.B. 300, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Chair Yamashita 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 is in strong support of the DLIR's request in HB300 especially those contained in GM 1 Proposed changes to the FB 2023-25 Executive Budget.**

Specifically, AARP supports the \$1.25M being requested to provide full-year funding for positions and statutorily required responsibilities for the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program (Act 296, SLH, 2022). Act 296 established the program to be administered by a newly created Hawaii Retirement Savings Board. The Hawaii Retirement Savings Program would provide a state-facilitated payroll deduction retirement savings plan with mandatory employer participation to private sector employees who do not have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans. The program's operational funding initially appropriated in the Act is non-recurring. Therefore, the requested funding in GM 1 is needed for the operations in the upcoming biennium as the program's implementation rolls out. AARP is a strong proponent of Act 296 and appreciates this opportunity to support DLIR's budget request.



Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

We would like to **support HB 300**.

With respect to the DOE budget, we advocate that priority should be given to sufficient funding of resources to the schools, in particular, EDN 100 (school-based budgeting) and EDN 150 (special education).

Students have suffered academically, socially and emotionally from disruptions resulting from the pandemic, with the greatest impact on our high-needs students. The table below shows the percent of students proficient in English Language Arts, math and science and the difference between non-high needs and high-needs students. The gap between student groups is alarmingly large.

State Assessment Percent Proficiency 2021-2022	English Language Arts	Math	Science
Non-High-Needs	71%	54%	55%
High-Needs	37%	25%	26%
Achievement Gap	34	29	29

[Board of Education, Special Meeting, October 20, 2022](#)

We advocate allocating sufficient funding to schools so that they can provide appropriate supports for all students, but particularly for our high-needs students. We believe that curriculum instruction assessment, differentiated instruction, and social-emotional learning (SEL) supports must be prioritized. This translates to maintaining **quality instruction in the classroom**. We also ask for **more granular financial transparency, particularly for school-based budgeting**. Stakeholders should know specifically how our school budgets are impacting our student outcomes.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

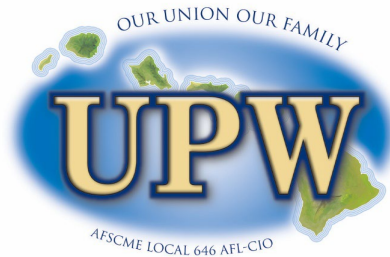
Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Castle Complex Community Council
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
*Youth Service Hawai'i
Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB300 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW provides comments on HB300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

We humbly request your **support** for the following budget requests:

1. The Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division’s (HTH430) request for 721.0 permanent full-time equivalent positions at Hawaii State Hospital, which includes 141.0 psychiatric technicians (FP).
2. The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission’s request for \$995,395 and 7.0 FTE in FY24 and \$880,395 and 7.0 FTE in FY25.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a thin blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director



**TESTIMONY ON HB 300
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

**The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") **supports** SB 300, specifically Item No. 13 for BED 150 on Page 73, \$12,125,000 for the capital improvement of Saratoga Avenue to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The Kalaeloa Community Development District (KCDD) encompasses approximately 3,700 acres of land within the former Barbers Point Naval Air Station (BPNAS) in Leeward Oahu. To enable redevelopment and advance mixed-use and affordable housing development, the KCDD requires energy reliability, security, and resilience. **Since Barbers Point was closed more than 20 years ago, the electrical utilities have not received any systematic upgrades or renewal.**

The MAC has worked with the Hawaii Congressional Delegation (CODEL) to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to work with the State of Hawaii to install a new electrical system and then to move the non-Navy customers off the Navy system to the new electrical system. This includes the Army National Guard. An appropriations request has been submitted to the CODEL for their consideration in FY'24.

This will allow more development plans to proceed. For example, the first new residential project to be built in Kalaeloa broke ground since the establishment of the KCDD, and it will be



located next to the new Daniel Kahikina Akaka Veteran Affairs Clinic. The construction of the \$120 million VA Clinic is on schedule and is expected to be open in 2024. It will provide specialized health care for 87,000 Hawaii veterans. Much more infrastructure improvements are needed to spur community development in Kalaeloa.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and the MAC asks for your favorable support of Item No. 13 for BED 150 on Page 73, \$12,125,000 for the capital improvement of Saratoga Avenue.



T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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Director

FROM: Sumeet Sharma, Director
Correctional Association of New York

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

March 7, 2023

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request that you consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new, opened in July 2022), it is important to ensure they are properly funded to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

Correctional Oversight in New York

Established in 1844, the Correctional Association of New York (CANY), under New York's Correction Law, is charged with providing independent oversight of the state's prisons by visiting and examining the state's correctional facilities to identify and report on prison conditions, the treatment of incarcerated individuals, and the administration of policy in New York.

Since its inception, CANY's monitoring and reporting has been integral in movements to end corporal punishment in state prisons, suspend the use of mandatory sentencing laws in New York, and abolish the death penalty in the state, among other reforms. Furthermore, the organization's advocacy has helped support improved access to medical and mental health care in prisons, improved quality of care for people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-C and other infectious diseases, and most recently, the limitation of the use of solitary confinement in New York.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, CANY has conducted 23 comprehensive prison monitoring visits, interviewed more than 3,000 incarcerated individuals, carried out three systemwide surveys, distributed vaccine education materials to approximately 20,000 incarcerated individuals, published 19 reports, responded to hundreds of requests for information and assistance, and held dozens of briefings with legislators, advocates, and other stakeholders – providing value and insight to policymakers, the department of corrections and community supervision, advocates and stakeholders in the public.

The Importance of Independent Oversight for Correctional Institutions

In an article for the NYU Brennan Center for Justice, Michele Deitch, senior lecturer and director of Prison and Jail Innovation Lab (PJIL) at the University of Texas, notes independent oversight 'as essential for a safe and healthy prison system' with it being crucial for promoting accountability and transparency and building public trust in the criminal justice system.

TO: The
Honorable Kyle

Similarly, the American Bar Association has encouraged every jurisdiction to statutorily establish an independent government body to routinely monitor prisons, jails, and other detention facilities, and construct public reports about conditions inside these facilities. The ABA Resolution created a checklist of the elements necessary to make these oversight bodies effective, including that the entity be independent of the corrections agency, have unlimited access to every part of the facility, and be able to monitor conditions without prior notice.

The State of Hawai'i has already recognized the value of independent oversight for correctional facilities and must ensure that the office now has funding to provide value to the state's policymakers.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at ssharma@correctionalassociation.org. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 8, 2023

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Conference Room 308
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 300**, Relating to the State Budget

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members:

My name is Dee Jay Mailer and I am the interim President and CEO of the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. I am writing in support of allocating operating funds for the Museum in the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The Bishop Museum serves a pivotal and integral role in education, research, preservation and advancement of culture and science, not only for Hawai'i, but for the world. The Museum's collections encompass more than 25 million catalogued objects, placing Bishop Museum among the top five natural history museums in the United States and the top 10 anywhere. The collections include over 1.2 million cultural artifacts, representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Island, and Hawai'i immigrant life; more than 125,000 historical publications, including many in the Hawaiian language; 1 million historical photographs, films, works of art, and publications; and over 22 million plant and animal specimens.

Museum researchers have discovered over 17,000 species of plants, animals, and insects throughout the Pacific region, and have made countless discoveries related to the migration, settlement, and daily life of Pacific peoples. The Museum's educational programs provide science and cultural education opportunities to thousands of Hawai'i schoolchildren each year, and it is estimated that the Museum has hosted more than 10 million visitors over its history.

Passage of operating funds in HB 300 will enable our committed staff to continue sharing Hawai'i's unique knowledge base and stories with the world. We welcome you back to the Museum to see, touch, feel, and learn all that the Museum is now and all that it can be with the support of the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Dee Jay Mailer
Interim President & CEO

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Goodwill Industries of

Hawai'i, Inc.

Ho'oheno, Inc.

Ka Lima O Maui

Lanakila Pacific

Responsive Caregivers

of Hawaii

SECOH

The Arc in Hawaii

The Arc of Hilo

The Arc of Kona



Please include the full funding to preserve the Developmental Disabilities Service System (HTH501)

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Cahir Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance:

My name is Jim Kilgore and I am the Executive Director at Full Life and serve on the Board of the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association serving people with developmental disabilities through the Home and Community Based Services Waiver 1915c administered by the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division.

The HWP Board is writing to **oppose and request delaying decision** on the following budget item in **HB 300 scheduled for hearing on March 8, 2023 at 10:00AM:**

HTH 501 – Developmental Disabilities, Page 27-28, Item NO. 18.

We understand that HB300 (HTH501) did not include the full funding initially requested by the Department of Health – Developmental Disabilities Division. This funding is necessary to preserve the system.

The difference between the HTH501 for HB300 and funding needed to preserve Hawai'i's Developmental Disability services (1915c Home and Community Based Services Waiver for individuals with I/DD) to respond to enrollment growth, increase provider rates to reflect rising minimum wage to maintain an adequate provider network, etc. is approximately **\$2.8 million in FY24 and \$6.3 million in FY 25. This would increase the general funds operating appropriations to FY23-24 \$106,995,398 and FY 24-25 to 112,282,640** Please see the chart on the second page.

This funding is critical for the following reasons:

- We are experiencing a **community supports crisis** due to a lack of funding to pay the cost of providing services to attract and retain qualified direct support professionals. The Department of Health conducted an independent rate study in 2020 that identified the rates needed to fund the actual costs of services. This has not been implemented through the budget.
- **Temporary pandemic related funding will expire** on June 30th, 2023 if nothing is done to sustain funding through the budget. This results in a **15-30% decrease in provider rates** which is used for the compensation of direct support staff and other service provider staff worsening the community supports crisis. These staff will experience a decrease in compensation if nothing is done.
- If the funding is not included, we are at risk of serving fewer people and/or providing fewer services. Providers are making **contingency plans to eliminate certain services** if nothing is done.
- Families will be forced to choose out of home care. **Families should not have to choose between working and keeping a family together.**
- Institutional care (nursing homes/etc.) cost the State of Hawai'i taxpayer on average \$77,000 more per year than waiver services. If you include the federal match (\$46 Million per year) the **Medicaid waiver program saves taxpayers \$300 million per year compared to institutional care.**

If this funding is not included in the budget for HTH501 people with developmental disabilities may be forced to separate from their families, require institutional care, require a family member to stop working in order to provide care, or perhaps become homeless.

Hawaii Waiver Provider Association (HWP) represents providers who support adults and children with developmental disabilities through the DOH-DDD Medicaid Waiver program. 3000 of the most vulnerable individuals amongst the disabled population are served annually through this program in Hawai'i. There are approximately 1900 direct support staff represented by HWP who support these families and individuals to live independently and be fully included in the community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Hawaii Waiver Providers Association Board

Chart illustrating the funding needed to sustain DD Services and funding included in the budget.

	FY 24	FY 25
DOH-DDD (HTH 501) Initial request for rates, enrollment, and workforce investment. *This is what is needed to implement the 2020 rate study and preserve services.	15,700,000	20,400,000
*Governors budget notes for (HTH 501) Budget amounts for rates, enrollment and workforce investments.	12,900,000	14,100,000
Difference	-2,800,000	-6,300,000

HB 300 Item NO. 18 Developmental Disabilities Division Operating Appropriations	104,195,398	105,982,640
What is needed to fully fund DDD services, ensure stability, ensure program enrollment growth, and fund the 2020 rate study required by CMS	106,995,398	112,282,640

Governor's Executive Budget notes: 1. Funding for the Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Individuals with I/DD to respond to enrollment growth; increase provider rates to reflect current costs and address the State's rising minimum wage in order to maintain an adequate provider network; and invest in the direct support workforce to improve recruitment, retention, and the quality of services, HTH 501/CN (0.00/\$12,900,000 in general funds); (0.00/\$14,100,000 in general funds).

**Please support the cost to provide services in Department of Health
Developmental Disabilities Budget HTH 501**



Hunt Development Group, LLC
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2750
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Office: 808-585-7900

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

March 8, 2023; 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 300– Relating to the State Budget –SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 300, item No. 13 for BED 150 on Page 73, \$12,125,000 for the capital improvement of Saratoga Avenue to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

In connection with its 535-acre portion of HCDA's 3,700-acre Kalaeloa Master Plan, Hunt Companies is working with Gentry Homes to bring the first 389 new for-sale homes for local families to Kalaeloa. Construction has also begun on the 98,000 square foot state-of-the-art VA ALOHA medical clinic, which is expected to be completed in January 2024.

These were made possible, in part, by Hunt Companies taking on the long-needed upgrades to the infrastructure and operations of the water utility in Kalaeloa, followed by launching more than \$35 million of roadway and utility infrastructure that provide benefit to the entire region.

There is much more to be done in terms of roadways, regional connections, utilities, and additional water and power infrastructure to make Kalaeloa the vibrant new addition for West Oahu families that is envisioned by HCDA's Master Plan, and this capital improvement appropriation to bring electrical down Saratoga Avenue is a vital initial step to that dream becoming reality.

We appreciate your efforts to help spur much needed infrastructure to support community development in Kalaeloa.

Steven W. Colón
President – Hawaii Division



Working together for Kapolei

March 7, 2023

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

March 8, 2023; 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 300– Relating to the State Budget – IN STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, **Kalaeloa**, Nanakuli, Waianae and Makaha. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

We strongly support Item No. 13 for BED 150 on Page 73, \$12,125,000 for the capital improvement of Saratoga Avenue to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

West O’ahu’s growing population of almost 200,000 includes the Waianae Coast, Ewa, and Waipahu and Kalaeloa. **Decades ago, the City and County of Honolulu adopted a goal of creating a “Second City” and moving residential and economic growth toward West O’ahu including areas like Kalaeloa.** The State adopted a similar long-standing policy to redirect growth away from Honolulu and toward Kapolei. To match this dynamic growth the emergence of new job centers in West O’ahu is essential to keep pace with the population growth. The planned development in HCDA’s 3,700-acre Kalaeloa Master Plan will play a key role in providing these job centers in Kalaeloa. **Upgrades to aged infrastructure including bringing electricity down Saratoga Avenue is essential for the development of these job centers and economic development in Kalaeloa.**

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce also has an Economic Revitalization Task Force established with priorities including priorities focused on economic development and revitalization efforts, and the economic development grants will provide an opportunity to materialize these vital efforts for West O'ahu. **Even though we are a burgeoning community – we lack the most critical infrastructure, connectivity, and business resources.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K Polk", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Kiran Polk
Executive Director

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Support of HB 300, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.
Committee on Finance
March 8, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 and via Teleconference**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's natural resources in HB 300, Relating to the State Budget.

TNC supports the DLNR and Governor's Message request for the LNR407 watershed protection. These funds provide critical funding that provides long-term conservation of watershed forests statewide. These investments help reduce erosion, prevent extinction of endangered species, increase carbon storage in native forests, and protect Hawai'i's fresh water. Forested watersheds provide Hawai'i with drinking water, cultural resources, and are home to unique plants and wildlife found nowhere else in the world. Protection is needed to safeguard these invaluable resources in the face of threats such as invasive species and climate change. Continuing investment in these vital resources will have immense long-term impacts for our forests and far beyond.

TNC supports and appreciates proposed investments in aquatic resources under line LNR401. These investments in programs to support our marine and coastal resources will ensure that the reefs that line our coasts, which are environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural treasures, will continue to support our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Each year, our reefs provide flood protection to people, property, and jobs valued at more than \$836 million, support nearshore fisheries worth \$13.4 million, and contribute more than \$1.2 billion through reef-related tourism to the state's economy. We must continue to make the vital investments to protect and sustainably manage our aquatic resources.

Additionally, TNC supports requests to increase positions within DLNR. DLNR play a key role in the health of our environment, which faces many impacts from climate change and human use, and this responsibility requires capacity to manage our State's terrestrial and marine resources.

These budget items contribute to the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' environment, economy, and quality of life. TNC understands that difficult fiscal decisions must be made and we thank you for appreciating the critical importance of protecting our limited and exhaustible natural resources so that they will continue to support us with fresh water, productive fisheries and farmlands, cultural treasures, and a healthy lifestyle. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 300.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

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**House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
On the following measure:
H.B. 300 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Kona Community Hospital (KCH) is committed to serving the healthcare needs of West Hawaii and the surrounding communities. In past two biennium budget requests, KCH has requested funding to address facility components that were becoming deficient in use. The goal was to mitigate issues before they rose to a critical point, thereby saving the state additional costs and ensuring the hospital has viable infrastructure needed to fully service the needs of the patients.

Due to shortfalls in previous CIP funding, the hospital is now at a critical juncture in which without the requested appropriations for this biennium, there is a significant risk of hospital closure and the ensuing loss of services. This closure would be catastrophic for both the residents and significant visitor population to West Hawaii.

KCH is respectfully requesting the following be included in HB 300 HD1 for its FY 24 & FY25 CIP Request:

Regulatory Compliance

KONA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, HAWAII

Construction for the RX Drug Compounding Facility expansion.

FY24	FY25
\$2,300,000 C	\$0

Cost Elements:

Construction	\$2,300,000	\$0
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This request is a supplemental appropriation* to complete the funding needed for the pharmacy compounding expansion. If the pharmacy is not expanded, KCH will lose accreditation to compound medicines, which would directly affect their ability to continue providing oncology services.

*FY 23: \$674K



Risk of Closure

KONA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL - LUMP SUM RISK OF CLOSURE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, HAWAII Design, Construction and Equipment to upgrade critical hospital infrastructure to mitigate the risk of closure of Kona Community Hospital.

FY24		FY25	
\$4,938,000	C	\$11,309,000	C

Cost Elements:

Design	\$2,106,000	Design	\$-0-
Plans	\$535,000	Plans	\$-0-
Construction	\$2,297,000	Construction	\$11,309,000
Equipment	\$-0-	Equipment	\$-0-

The lump sum request covers four distinct, but critical facility upgrades needed to stave off the real risk of hospital closure, which would occur if KCH is unable to provide services to the level required by medical licensing and accreditation bodies.

The lump sum request includes the following projects as detailed below.

Central Utility Plant (CUP)

The current utility system and equipment is old and failing. The parts are incredibly expensive and difficult to replace. The proposed CIP request will install a new condenser water system, chillers, cooling towers, condenser water pumps, and associated controls within the new central plant, which will be relocated near the existing generator at the south end of the main hospital. This relocation allows for the expansion needed for future patient growth projections.

Site Utilities

As KCH expands, it faces increasing demands on the utility system currently in place. The electrical system will not be able to sustain the demands placed upon it and must be replaced and relocated, to make space for the new central plant and add additional capacity for long-term needs.

Loading Dock

The hospital’s existing loading dock is disconnected from general storage on the hospital’s ground level and central supplies on the hospital’s first floor, which makes deliveries for trucks and trailers servicing the campus difficult. These difficulties have made moving supplies and equipment around the hospital very problematic and highly inefficient.



The ideal location for the new loading dock has been found to be the south side of the central supplies area on the first floor. The relocation of loading dock to this area can be combined with the new central utility plant (CUP) and can be directly connected to central supplies on the first floor and a freight elevator to general storage on the ground floor.

Building Infrastructure

Critical internal building systems are obsolete, with parts which can no longer be located or purchased. These include systems that are required by code and by law for the health and safety of the patients and staff at KCH. This includes the fire alarm, fire Sprinkler, electrical, IT, and plumbing systems. The goal is to replace these systems to improve operational function and reduce on-going response to system failures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our budgetary request for critical CIP funding for inclusion in HB 300 HD1.

PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Claire Shubik-Richards, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Prison Society

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Claire Shubik-Richards from the Pennsylvania Prison Society, I am writing in support of the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC). The HCSOC is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 for FY25 to include seven FTE salaries, travel costs, consultation for special projects, office equipment, and other necessary expenses. Proper funding is essential to ensure the HCSOC can fulfill their mandated requirements as set forth by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

Since 1787, the Pennsylvania Prison Society has served as Pennsylvania's independent prison monitor for all 85 of our county and state correctional facilities. Authorized by Pennsylvania statute, Prison Society staff and volunteer Prison Monitors may enter any correctional facility in the Commonwealth and meet privately with incarcerated people and assist them in resolving concerns. In 2022 we completed over 1800 such visits. We also publish data and good practices to assist government actors and corrections administrators across our state.

We were heartened by the announcement of the HCSOC as we have seen time and again the value of independent oversight of corrections in states around the country. Corrections by its very nature is a closed world. The very real security concerns of running a correctional system have the unfortunate impact of obscuring a large, potentially dangerous state institution from the purview of the public and government officials.

Oversight saves helps reduce recidivism. People subjected to abuse, danger, trauma, or denied healthcare while in prison are less likely to succeed in the community when they come home (see Katherine M. Auty & Alison Liebling, [Exploring the Relationship between Prison Social Climate and Reoffending](#), Justice Quarterly, 37:2, 358-381 (2020)).

Oversight saves money. Oversight agencies can identify issues for officials before the result in litigation. Reductions in reoffending produce community savings.

The Prison Society's work may best be captured by a Pennsylvania State Prison Superintendent who responded to a 2017 Department of Corrections (DOC) survey, saying: "The Prison Society helps us do our job." As non-adversarial, independent monitors, the Prison Society helps shape and drive good policy and outcomes. We are not unique; in states as diverse as Washington, New York, and Illinois, we have seen similar working relationships and success. We are confident that with appropriate funding, Hawai'i will see the same.

If I can be of further service, I can be reached at (215) 910-4573 or cshubik@prisonsociety.org. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



230 S. Broad Street, Suite 605
Philadelphia, PA 19102
p 215-564-4775 f 215-564-1830

PRISONSOCIETY.ORG



The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members
House Committee on Finance
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

RE: H.B. 300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Hearing: Thursday, March 8, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

My name is Debbie Luning, testifying on behalf of Gentry Homes, in **strong support of budget item no. 13 for BED 150 (page 73) which appropriates \$12.125 million in CIP funds for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements.** Gentry Kalaeloa LLC, a subsidiary of Gentry Homes, is pioneering the development of the first new residential community in the Kalaeloa Community Development District (KCDD) named “Ka’ulu by Gentry.” And while the new Ka’ulu community will not be dependent on the electrical and communications upgrades, we believe the infrastructure upgrades are absolutely necessary for not only current residents and businesses, but also for future growth of the area.

This appropriation is sorely needed in order that currently substandard electrical and communications systems in Kalaeloa can be brought up to industry standards. Existing residents and businesses continue to suffer from blackouts far too often and in many parts of Kalaeloa, new users are apparently unable to hook up to the electrical system due to limited capacity.

The CIP funds would enable connection to the Enterprise Energy Corridor along Saratoga Avenue to Hornet Street, thus providing more reliable and resilient underground power and connections that would be unaffected by inclement weather. The improvements are also essential for the continued growth of the KCDD – an area that has heretofore been largely untapped due to inadequate infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of funding for the Saratoga Avenue infrastructure improvements.

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra M. A. Luning".

Debra M. A. Luning
Director of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations

March 7, 2023

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

March 8, 2023; 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 300– Relating to the State Budget – IN STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

My name is Bev Brennan and I'm the Proprietor of the Barbers Point Bowling Center on Saratoga Avenue Kalaeloa. My partner and I took over the bowling center when the Navy closed it in September 2008. We signed a lease with Hunt Companies in October 2009 and reopened the doors on 8 March 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 300, which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

We strongly support Item No. 13 for BED 150 on Page 73, \$12,125,000 for the capital improvement of Saratoga Avenue to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

We have been plagued with power outages ever since we opened the doors. Anytime we get heavy rains, the power goes out. Heavy winds? The power goes out.

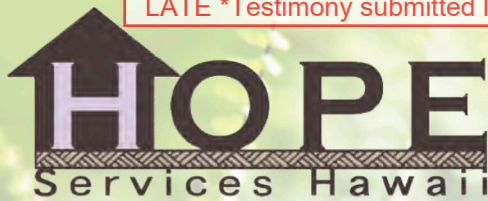
The recent span of outages was attributed to the weather: December 4th and 19th; February 3rd, 4th and 12th; and March 1st. We've been told outages will be a MINIMUM of 4 hours. The power goes down, NAVFAC is notified, wait for NAVFAC to arrive, NAVFAC goes to substation on Saratoga, identifies problem area, goes to problem area and hopefully can fix the problem, comes back to Saratoga substation and brings the power back up. In the meantime, all we can do is sit in the dark and turn away customers and thousands of dollars.

The businesses on Kalaeloa need reliable energy to thrive. There's a lot of work to do out here, but the first step is getting the CIP money approved to enable us to move forward. This will only happen with your support.

Thank you for listening to us. We stand ready to answer any questions you might have.

Regards,

Bev Brennan
Proprietor
Barbers Point Bowling Center
808-73-2695



COMMENTS ON HB 300: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
Hearing: Wednesday, 3/8/23; 10:00

Aloha,

My name is Brandee Menino and I am the CEO of Hope Services Hawai'i, which is Hawai'i Island's largest nonprofit homeless services provider. We use evidence-based practices to help our neighbors avoid and overcome homelessness, and achieve above-average results in helping people get housed and stay housed. We work hard to serve our community, but we need your collaboration if we hope to end homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 300, to appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. We appreciate the legislature's commitment to maintaining core services, and expanding where possible.

We are concerned about adequate funding for staffing and resources for the Department of Health and Department of Human Services, which provide critical safety net services for the most vulnerable populations in our community. For the duration of the pandemic and the following period of recovery, DHS and DOH will be called upon to support a wide variety of services, including public benefits, mental health supports, and contracted services. However, DOH and DHS need to be properly resourced to remain responsive to residents' needs and compliant with multiple program requirements. With the true cost of services rising, it's vital to ensure agencies have the ability to support their workforce, sustain current caseloads, and maintain the level of services delivered by community providers. If the capacity of DOH and DHS to deliver services is reduced, it will adversely impact the residents and the communities we all serve.

Additionally, we'd like to draw your attention to the following:


- **Page 33: Steady funding for homeless services (HMS 224):** We appreciate the legislature's commitment to preserving social services, including core homeless services. These funds will enable a range of proven, successful homeless services to remain stable. We appreciate the legislature's support for these critical Core Services. We also urge that it is now time to put these vital services into the base budget going forward. These programs have been stuck at the same funding level for many years, resulting in difficulty hiring staff and continuity of services. Reliable ongoing and sufficient funding is needed to continue to move the homeless off our streets and into permanent housing. We support an increase in funding to cover the true costs of services.

- **BED 160: We support \$300 million to HHFDC for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) statewide.** We also appreciate the allocation to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, and respectfully request that the committee consider increasing that amount. Investing in this fund will mean fewer of our neighbors struggling to pay the rent, and will provide the relief needed for us to begin rebuilding our economy. We urge your support to add funding in the budget for the RHRF to serve the most vulnerable in our State, with incomes of 60% AMI or below.
- **Page 36: Funding the Statewide Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions (SOHHS) and continuing funding for ‘Ohana Zones:** For this statewide office to work effectively, it needs staff and operations funding. We support the proposed 5 permanent positions and the operating budget. The extensive coordination performed by this office requires efficient and effective permanent staffing. We also support the funding for ‘Ohana Zones to continue these pilot programs. These projects allow the counties and service providers to work together creatively to try new alternatives to test them before scaling up the most effective options.

We appreciate that you recognize the necessity of maintaining and increasing social services that serve as a lifeline to our neighbors in need. We trust that you will work to invest more in these effective services today, so that we will be better equipped to weather the storms of tomorrow.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: HB 300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Dear Chair Yamashita and House Finance Committee Members:

Lanakila Pacific respectfully submits COMMENTS regarding HB 300, specifically regarding **HTH 501- Developmental Disabilities, Item No. 18** (pp 27-28 of HB300_pdf).

Lanakila Pacific appreciates the appropriations included in HTH 501 for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

According to the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD), an additional \$2,800,000 in FY24 and \$6,300,000 in FY25 is needed to sustain the rate increases implemented based on the 2020 Rate Study, address growth in the numbers of individuals with IDD requiring services, and implement workforce development initiatives.

As a provider agency of the Home and Community Based Medicaid 1915c Waiver Services, the recent wage increases are necessary to address the minimum wage increase and growing costs of service provision. The rate increases also allow providers to remain viable in a competitive job market as we recruit to fill vacancies which resulted from the COVID pandemic.

The appropriations listed in Budget Item No. 18, HTH 501 are necessary for the DDD to sustain current service levels to individuals with IDD and rates for IDD Medicaid 1915c Waiver providers in FY24 and FY25.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 300.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gibo
Vice President of Programs



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
 1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813
 Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
 email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov
 March 8, 2023

Special Education
 Advisory Council

Ms. Martha Guinan, Chair
 Ms. Susan Wood, Vice Chair

Ms. Sara Alimoot
 Ms. Virginia Beringer
 Ms. Mary Brogan
 Mr. Rick Bunny
 Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
 Ms. Annette Cooper
 Ms. Shana Cruz
 Mr. Mark Disher
 Dr. Lisa Garcia
 Ms. Mai Hall
 Ms. Melissa Harper Osai
 Mr. Kerry Iwashita
 Ms. Melissa Johnson
 Ms. Tina King
 Ms. Jennifer Leoiki-Drino
 Ms. Cheryl Matthews
 Dr. Paul Meng
 Ms. Kiele Pennington
 Ms. Carrie Pisciotto
 Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
 Ms. Rosie Rowe
 Ms. Ivalee Sinclair
 Mr. Steven Vannatta
 Ms. Lisa Vegas
 Ms. Paula Whitaker
 Ms. Jasmine Williams
 Ms. Susan Wood

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
 House Committee on Finance
 Hawaii State Capitol
 Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 300 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Council under the Individual's with Disabilities Act (IDEA) **supports HB 300** relating to the specific budget items noted below:

EDN 150 - Special Education and Student Support Services
 Page 37, Item #2

	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
	5,349.50 *	5,349.50 *
	1,228.25 **	1,228.25 **
	436,112,222 A	444,000,205 A
	250,000 B	250,000 B
	2.00 *	2.00 *
	33.00 **	33.00 **
	52,164,701 N	52,164,701 N
	5,000,000 P	5,000,000 P
	8.00 *	8.00 *
	10,130,273 W	10,194,809 W

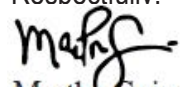
Ms. Roxanne Rokero, liaison to
 the Superintendent
 Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani,
 liaison to the military
 community

These funds are needed to maintain the base budget as well as to provide funds for contracted skilled nursing services and applied behavior analysis (ABA) services as required by students' individualized education programs (IEPs). The budget also includes additional ABA positions to build on the Department's internal capacity to serve students with behavioral needs.

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of the EDN 150 budget.

Respectfully,


 Martha Guinan
 Chair

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:07:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Curran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Lee Curran and I am writing in full support of following through the legislatures' mandate as described in Act 179 and fully funding the HCSOC budget as they requested.

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband. We are taxpayers residing in Makaha and deeply care about public safety and the criminal legal system here in Hawai'i. After attending several HCSOC meetings over zoom and reading monthly and annual reports of the Commission, we are convinced that HCSOC is one of the very best run, effective and positive change-making commissions in the state of Hawai'i under the leadership of Chair Mark Patterson, Commission Members and the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson.

We feel strongly that the Commission needs to be further strengthened to carry out its work and mission and needs the funding to truly reach its potential. This crucial funding will more than pay for itself by reducing the lawsuits and the money paid out by the state for negligence and harm in our jails and prisons. As taxpayers, we believe this is a vital investment, not only in fiscal terms, but also in the dignity and humanity of those impacted by the criminal legal system, including those incarcerated, the staff and the greater community.

It is your fiduciary and moral imperative to fully fund the HCSOC. We hope you follow through with this responsibility.

Dan and Lee Curran, Makaha

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:07:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Beilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AlohaHouse Finance Committee members,

I urge you to pass HB300 in support of the KIRC. I am in support of this measure of state budget which establishes a new program ID and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions. The mission of the KIRC is critical to Hawaii, yet they are severely understaffed - this measure will allow the KIRC to continue the long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe for the people of Hawai'i'.

In addition, I further support the Governor's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Kaho'oloawe is a treasure, but needs our help. I respectfully ask you to please pass HB300.

With aloha, Dave Beilman

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:10:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janeece Beauchamp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Janeece Beauchamp

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:14:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL KALANI ROBINSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Paul K Robinson

Waiehu, Maui, HI

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:14:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you SUPPORT HB300 to ensure funding for KIRC positions.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:19:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia R Rubenstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Aloha,

Jules & Team MMN

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:38:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberley Newhouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB300.

Mahalo,

Kimberley K. Newhouse

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:47:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Geil	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After decades of fighting to a transparent and accountable correctional system, Hawai`i finally has a professional Oversight Coordinator. Now the FINANCE COMMITTEE must support HCSOC!!!!

To meet the Legislature's mandate in Act 179, the HCSOC is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25. Please, please give our community what we so badly need for this situation!!! Please include the entire requested budget and let our new governor know how badly it is needed and how strong the community support for it is!

· The money requested is for 7 needed positions: Oversight Coordinator, Office Assistant, Jail Oversight Specialist, Prison Oversight Specialist, Reentry Specialist, Research & Policy Associate, Research & Policy Associate and other required expenses to carry out the work.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:58:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra L. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I'm in full **SUPPORT** of this measure to provide financial support for hiring additional three full-time staff members for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). This will allow the organization to continue their long-term restoration efforts of Kaho`olawe, which ultimately serves all the people of Hawai'i. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique logistical challenges of safely restoring, protecting, and managing the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i for generations to come. Funding will enable the continuation of land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also providing the opportunity to support and foster the next generation of cultural and natural resource managers through an immersive volunteer program. The dynamic safe and meaningful, hands-on experience that KIRC facilitates within the Reserve will greatly benefit from additional funding and staff support. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB300.

Thank you for your time,

Cassandra L. Smith

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:58:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gavagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee on Finance ,

I am testifying in support of HB300, specifically the funding for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. This funding is crucial for the KIRC to continue its mission to provide safe, meaningful access to Kaho'olawe as well as to allow Native Hawaiians to continue to continue their cultural practices. My family's experiences on Kaho'olawe continue to inspire them in their everyday lives and careers. My husband continues to take volunteers from the hotel he works at to Kaho'olawe yearly to help in restoring the island as part of their kuleana to the Honua'ula Moku where the hotel stands. My daughter's experiences on Kaho'olawe contributed to her career choice. She graduated last month from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a B.S. in Marine Science, a Marine Option Program Certificate and a minor in Hawaiian Studies. Kaho'olawe continues to inspire people from all walks of life to not only restore Kaho'olawe but also to malama aina within their own communities. In order for this to continue, this funding is imperative.

Mahalo,

Terri Gavagan

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 1:59:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting the restoration of Kanaloa Kaho`olawe.

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa!

Me ka ha`a ha`a

Lopaka White

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:01:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Wine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB300.

Mahalo,

Christina Wine

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Stacey Nelson, Professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

It seems that Hawaii is at a monumental juncture. Deciding budgets for oversight of correctional facilities is not an easy task, but the decision should be grounded in the idea of what the future of Hawaii will look like...

A healthy society must include the health of all its citizens. Jails and prisons are places that historically lock up those on the margins of society. Many times, this includes people who need psychiatric care as well as those who need to learn a new way of life. Conversely, in these institutions that are cut off from public view, there is a need to ensure that caretakers (jail staff) are coinciding with rehabilitative efforts and refraining from abuse.

Given the statutory mandate thus far (353L), the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) has a tall task overseeing many avenues of reform. Gaining competent and effective people to fill roles within the HCSOC will be imperative to its success. Thus, proper funding is pivotal toward making the HCSOC effectual.

As an oversight practitioner and professor on the subject, I support the decision to make the HCSOC as well-resourced as possible. Given the statutory mandate for the office to 1) investigate complaints, 2) influence policy and procedures to control the inmate population, 3) oversee the re-entry process, which includes assessment and analysis of existing processes, and 4) design a new system based on therapeutic and rehabilitative models, I urge you all to allocate funding accordingly.

Hopefully, the office will be a resource to not only other government entities but the public at large. When executed correctly, oversight bodies like the to-be-fully-functioning HCSOC can help bridge gaps and create public trust in the government that serves them.

Sincerely,

Stacey Nelson
Professor of Oversight and Law Enforcement, Loyola Law School

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:41:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Rezendes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the request to improve Saratoga Avenue, Kalaheo.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:43:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Sabharwal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB300.

Mahalo,

Caroline Sabharwal

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 2:44:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen H. Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

March 8, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Regarding H.B. 300 Relating to the State Budget.

I support the CIP funds request for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements, that will bring reliable energy to the downtown business area of Kalaeloa.

Kalaeloa is an underserved area of Hawaii and needs infrastructure support throughout the entire area. Saratoga is a good start and improvements eventually need to extend to the Corals Seas Road area.

With respect.

Mahalo,

Stephen H. Yuen

stevey@g70.design

Oahu resident and longtime Kalaeloa recreational user.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:02:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee,

Please pass HB300 out of committee and send it to the full House. HB300 establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe.

More importantly, it will get these two new staff members on board so they can be trained by other staff who are nearing retirement. These staff members support the day-to-day operations of the KIRC office but also help supervise the hundreds of volunteers who visit the island each year for plant restoration and erosion control projects. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these volunteers are exposed to both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods.

Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. For

example, we still need to replace some of the equipment that was lost in thr 2020 fire.

I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:04:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask you support this bill and funding for Kahoolawe. Now is the time to invest in our future, our keiki. We need to honor our children by protecting the aina and those that preserve and protect it.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:10:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

As I former volunteer to the KIRC mission. I endorse the following bill:

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Garrett Ward

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:10:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which includes much-needed and well-deserved funding for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Elaine Wender

Wailuku

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:24:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Webster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, especially in the state of Hawai‘i, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. The UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, and approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year as a result of this program. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am a 2020 graduate of the UH Hilo MA Program, and I am now in private practice as a licensed mental health counselor in our state. While my primary practice is on the east side of the big island, I have clients on every main island. My practice was full within one month of becoming licensed. My experience is consistent with other professionals in this field, and with stories told by clients and other people seeking care: they are struggling to find mental health care because our state has a shortage of mental health workers, existing practitioners and agencies are operating near maximum capacity, we have insufficient inpatient options (which puts a heavier load on outpatient settings), and we have a shortage of training programs and licensed mental health professionals at the masters and doctorate levels who have enough time and resources to provide supervision to graduates in the pre-licensure phase. It is imperative that additional funding is provided to the UH Hilo MA program so that these deficits can be ameliorated.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Amanda Webster, LMHC

PO Box 711485

Mountain View, HI 96771

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:29:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Robichaux	Kalaeloa Homelands Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support CIP Item 13 Special Community Development for HCDA to assist in community-based solar development in Kalaeloa.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:29:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vance Arakaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Vance Arakaki

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:40:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Kim, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: **HB 300 – Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. **I support HB 300 with amendments**, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part **supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology**. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow *the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training*.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the **UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%**, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Bryan S. K. Kim, Ph.D.

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:50:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amma King	UH Hilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training. About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

As a resident of O‘ahu, I have been grateful to be a student in the UH Hilo Counseling Psychology program via distance learning. My primary interest in counseling is to support youth facing mental health challenges. Studying in this UH program with some of the most

knowledgeable and experienced professors has been crucial to my development as a skilled counselor.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Amma King

3130A Woodlawn Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 3:58:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni Shifflet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/6/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighboring islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Toni Shifflet

441- A Leilani St.

Hilo, HI

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:02:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarala Dandekar	University of Hawai'i at Hilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/06/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Sarala Dandekar

3579 Piikea Place

Makawao, HI

96768

**CHARMAINE HIGA-MCMILLAN, PHD
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST, #1010
HILO, HI 96720**

In Consideration of HB 300

March 6, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawaii's budget request to support the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology, which will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

I am a licensed psychologist, and my clinical and scholarly work focuses on enhancing the mental health of youth in our local communities. I also serve as professor and director of the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. I am writing as a resident of Hilo, HI and as a licensed psychologist.

About one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and teens. Our graduate program at UH Hilo trains mental health counselors to work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. Counselors typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness.

The need for highly trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, particularly in rural areas, and is the reason that the Hawaii Legislature approved the creation of UH Hilo's program. As you are likely aware, access to mental health services has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands (we have alumni on Kauai, Maui and Molokai in addition to Oahu and Hawaii island).

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. ***This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors.***

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

Sincerely,



HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:16:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
YiLin Fang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supportsthe UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety anddepression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

YiLin Fang

1079 Puolo Dr, Honolulu, HI 96818

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:21:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Tomita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am voicing my strongest support for an increased budget (HB300) for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission!

When the Commission was formed in 2019, and their five members were hand-picked by distinguished Hawaii officials, their mission was severely hampered by the lack of budget and staff. They performed their duties despite this hardship.

Things took a complete turnaround once the state finally approved/released funds to the Oversight Commission and they were able to hire their current coordinator, Ms Christin Johnson in mid-2022. She has done an incredible job in just a little over half a year, and now the Commission is beginning to make a huge impact. Their website started from scratch and is now very impressive, with links to their various social media platforms, giving the citizens of Hawaii complete transparency and visibility in all of their work.

Increasing their budget, to allow more key staff members in pursuing the Commission's charter, can only help the state of Hawaii improve their jails/prisons in the short AND long term. Hawaii's prison system has gone downhill since the days when Commission member Mr. Ted Sakai (past Public Safety Director) achieved national prominence by being awarded the '2014 Outstanding Director of Corrections' for the entire US of A. Let's get the prison system problems (perceived or real) fixed ASAP. An increased Oversight Commission budget will prove to be a great 'bang for the buck!'

v/r

Jeff Tomita

Concerned Citizen

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:25:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lori stitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE Mar 6, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am currently a student in the MA Counseling Psychology program at UH Hilo and know firsthand how important it is that this program be funded for additional staff.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Lori Stitt

378 Pua Road, Kapaa, HI 96746

March 6, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I graduated from this program in 2011 and have entered the workforce as a Behavioral Health Specialist in the Department of Education on Oahu. I believe the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology has prepared me to enter the workforce and be a productive member in student's education plans. I was also offered this job about two hours after my interview, before I was even able to fly back to Hilo, based on how well this program has prepared me for this job. This is all due to the hard working faculty of the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Meghan Chin, MA

South Central District: Aiea/Moanalua/Radford Complexes

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 4:50:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my concern about the absence of any mention of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission in the Governor’s budget. To date, the Commission Coordinator has accomplished so much to address major problems and eliminate liabilities in our correctional institutions, but much more needs to be done. If, as it appears, funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission has been overlooked, please provide the funding necessary to enable it to carry out its mission, mandated in Act 179 and enacted into law in 2019.

It is inconceivable that anyone, including the Governor and members of the Finance Committee, believes that our correctional system does not need any oversight. Given the Department of Public Safety’s history of unaccountability, secrecy, and coverup, oversight is essential. Also, it is doubtful that the Department will be able to transition to a more rehabilitative system on its own, given its past rejection of rehabilitative programs.

As a result of the Commission’s investigations, it was discovered that corrections officials were not even aware of the federal laws they were violating! These kinds of problems put the State in legal jeopardy. The Commission’s work is to make our correctional system better, including by helping corrections officials comply with federal law, adopt best practices, and create a safer, more rehabilitative environment for everyone in our correctional institutions.

Please provide funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to carry on its work to eliminate liability to the State and make sure that the talk of rehabilitation is more than just lip service.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Diana Bethel

Honolulu

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 5:01:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please pass HB300.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Molly Mamaril (Kaimuki resident)

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 5:06:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William R. Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

See uploaded letter! Thank you, William R. Higa, Ph.D., Retired Clinical Psychologist previously practiced in Hilo.

March 6, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am a 2015 graduate from the UH Hilo Masters in Counseling Psychology program. From my cohort, most were individuals who lived here, and continue to live and work here in this state. I personally have supervised four interns from the graduate program at my current place of employment. I work in a correctional facility, working with inmates in a rehabilitative program to help them understand their mental status at the time of the offense, and how to prevent them from re-offending. Mental health services are extremely important in the rehabilitative program as many of the offenders battle mental health challenges including PTSD, anxiety, and drug addiction. In my line of work, it is important that the client understand and relate to the mental health professionals; and living, working and being educated here helps build rapport and allows for the therapeutic alliance to build more effectively.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely, Kit Hill 808-365-3281 64-211 Pu'u Pulehu Loop Kamuela, HI 96743
kithill@hawaii.edu

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 6:01:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Swafford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 5, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supportsthe UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety anddepression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Christina Swafford

2211 Palolo Ave, Honolulu

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 6:04:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sadea Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/6/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training. About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands. The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sadea Campbell
15-1850 Poni Moi Ave., Kea'au, HI, 96749

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 7:09:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adabelle Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Adabelle B. Carson

66-1236 Ahuli Place

Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 8:09:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christen Zulli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Christen Zulli and I am in support of HB 300 and the inclusion of the budget request submitted by the University of Hawai'i, Hilo's MA in Counsleing Psychology Program as it is extremely important to the long-term health of the program. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. Sincerely, Christen Zulli

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 8:39:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Fukumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB300. I fully support this bill so KIRC can fulfill its mission to restore Kahoolawe.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 8:45:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Kane	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

3/6/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo has given me the opportunity to acquire the necessary tools to help serve my community and combat the pandemic of mental health that the islands are currently plagued with. As a six year Behavioral Health

Specialist who has been serving Hawaii's Department of Education, I can confidently say the need for mental health providers has never been greater.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kane

600 Manono street Hilo Hawaii 96720

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 8:58:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: HB 300 – In **Strong Support** for the Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission budget

HEARING: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Room 308 at 10:00 AM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani. I'm an RN who has lived in Hawaii for 30 years and a long-time supporter of criminal justice reform legislation. I write in strong support of HB300.

As you know, The Hawai`i Correctional System Oversight Commission, mandated by Act 179 (in 2019) has accomplished much since they started in 2020. You may also know that they **submitted a budget request to the Governor that was NOT included in his budget.** In order to continue their essential work of bringing reform and oversight to our badly broken correctional system, they need funding.

Please support HB300 and grant HCSOC's request for \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25.

Financial support is needed for many things including:

- Hiring staff for 7 positions: Oversight Coordinator; Office Assistant; Jail Oversight Specialist; Prison Oversight Specialist; Reentry Specialist; Research & Policy Associate; and another Research & Policy Associate.
- Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel
- Memberships and Conferences,
- Special Projects and Consultation,
- Bed Utilization Project and a Population Limit Study
- Equipment

Please support HCSOC's budget request by passing HB300. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

(808) 321-4503

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 9:22:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
donn viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Donn Viviani. My wife and I live in Kailua and have family in Manoa and Aiea. I write in strong support of HB300. The intent of Act 179 (2019) was to maximize public safety while protecting state and federal constitutional principles regarding the presumption of innocence, liberty, and the right to non-excessive bail, while also reducing the State's jail population and lowering costs throughout the judicial system. It also mandated the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. The Commission submitted a budget request to the Governor that was NOT included in his budget. In order to continue their essential work with bringing reform and oversight to our broken correctional system, they need funding.

Please support HB300 and grant HCSOC's request for \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter. Thank you

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 9:23:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a Maui High School science teacher and an advisor to Hui O Naulu - The Cloud Bridge Club, which was inspired by a student group's volunteer trip to Kaho'olawe. Our mission is to find connections for high school aged students interested in conservation work in Hawai'i.

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Greg Jones

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 9:38:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LIBRADO COBIAN	AAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the CIP funds request for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure Improvements, that will bring reliable energy to the downtown business area of Kalaeloa.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 10:08:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Mahalo piha,

Kristy Lam

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 10:10:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Uchigakiuchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Patrick Uchigakiuchi, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of H.B. No. 300, specifically related to providing funding for The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC), which is requesting \$995,395 for FY24, and \$880,395 for FY25.

Providing full funding to maintain the effectiveness of HCSOC is extremely important in order to accomplish the mandates for the Commission as required by Act 179, which requires accomplishing the following goals:

- (1) Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model;
- (2) Establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility;
- (3) Ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.

I have 5 years of past work experience with the Department of Public Safety as a psychologist contracted to provide research, program evaluation, and training for the department. This work included interacting with inmates and researching programs and services provided to them during the course of their incarceration in preparation for re-entry back into the community. As determined by the Hawaii State Legislature, I am in full agreement with their finding that there is an "urgent need to comprehensively reform and modernize the State's criminal justice system." I firmly believe that having a fully functioning HCSOC that provides independent oversight of our State correctional system is absolutely critical in order to achieve positive reform towards a "rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system," including creating opportunities for meaningful healing and positive recovery for individuals, families, and communities.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 10:15:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamar Kreps	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/6/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

Personally, I am currently completing my internship with the program at Tripler Army Medical Center on O’ahu. I have experienced the incredible demand for mental health services in our state. I have also observed that the program has done an excellent job of training me to begin my

career as a counselor. Our program faculty work incredibly hard to ensure the program graduates competent, ethical, compassionate counselors. They absolutely deserve and would benefit from some more support to teach in and expand the program.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Tamar A. Kreps
2236 Oahu Ave
Honolulu, HI 96822

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 1:28:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Crawford	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission and its request for funding. The previous lack of oversight of Hawaii's correctional institutions has proven expensive. Please fully fund the HCSOC so it can fulfill its mission—mandated by the Legislature in 2019—and ensure compliance with federal law. Thank you.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 3:50:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lara Reynolds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come.

Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and worldview, and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Lara Reynolds

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 4:58:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Pulver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Margaret Pulver

Aloha my name is Paula Toki Morelli, I submit this testimony in strong support of H.B. No. 300, specifically related to providing funding for The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC), which is requesting \$995,395 for FY24, and \$880,395 for FY25.

Providing full funding to maintain the effectiveness of HCSOC is extremely important in order to accomplish the mandates for the Commission as required by Act 179, which requires accomplishing the following goals:

(1) Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model;

(2) Establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility;

(3) Ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.

As determined by the Hawaii State Legislature, funding is urgently needed, "to comprehensively reform and modernize the State's criminal justice system." Having a fully functioning HCSOC that provides independent oversight of our State correctional system is absolutely critical in order to achieve positive reform towards a "rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system," including creating opportunities for meaningful healing and positive recovery for individuals, families, and communities.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 6:44:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Grace Danner, LPC	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 3/3/23

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I graduated from UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology in 2017 and moved to Texas temporarily for personal reasons, where I have obtained my license as a Licensed Professional

Counselor. I plan to return to Hawaii, apply for my Licensed Mental Health Counselor license, and continue to serve my local community in Hilo.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Summer Grace Danner, MA, LPC
219 Iwalani St., Hilo, HI 96720
808.937.8431

ROBERT K. MERCÉ

2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
(808) 398-9594

March 7, 2023

TO: Committee on Finance
RE: HB 300
HEARING: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
ROOM: Conf. Rm. 308
POSITION: Strong Support for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission's Budget Request

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

My name is Bob Merce. I am a retired lawyer and have been active in prison reform for the past ten years. I served as vice-chair of the HRC 85 Task Force on Prison Reform and was the principal author of the Task Force's final report to the 2019 Legislature which strongly recommended the creation of a correctional oversight commission for Hawaii.

Hawaii's correctional oversight law, HRS §353L (2019) places tremendous legal obligations on the Oversight Commission. It must oversee a vast correctional system with more than 4,000 prisoners in nine aging, and poorly maintained prisons in Hawaii, and a large privately operated prison located approximately 3,000 miles away in Eloy, Arizona. The Commission is required to investigate complaints, and facilitate the correctional system's transition to a therapeutic and rehabilitative model.

In addition, the Commission is required to:

- (1) Establish maximum population limits for each correctional facility in the state;
- (2) Formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility;
- (3) Review the Department of Public Safety's reentry programs, educational programs, rehabilitation services, the work furlough program, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority's supervision of approximately 1,500 parolees, and make recommendations for improvement;

(4) Ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when their maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of program and services; and

(5) Make recommendations for improvements to the Department of Public Safety, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Legislature.

HRS §353L specifically requires the Oversight Coordinator (as opposed to the Commission) to: (a) supervise and administer the Commission ; (b) ensure that the Department of Public Safety is following relevant oversight and reentry laws; (c) submit monthly reports of activities and expenditures to the Commission, the Governor and Legislature; (d) conduct an "ongoing study and investigation" of correctional laws in the United States and other countries; (e) study and investigate relevant literature on correctional law and policy; (f) study and advise the Commission on any federal laws that might affect its operations; and (g) investigate and study the reaction of residents to existing and potential features of the correctional system.

The Commission is comprised of five, unpaid volunteers who serve as commissioners and two employees: the Oversight Coordinator, and an Oversight Specialist. The Commission and staff are working hard and doing a great job, **but they cannot possibly meet their statutory responsibilities without additional staff.**

The Commission, *at a minimum*, needs the following additional personnel:

1. **Two Oversight Specialists**, one for jails and one for prisons at a salary of \$125,000 a year. These individuals must be skilled investigators and be able to communicate effectively with both inmates and staff. They must know federal and state law, rules, regulations, and policies pertaining to corrections and correctional facilities and be individuals of highest integrity to earn the trust and confidence of inmates and staff.
2. **Two Research and Policy Associates** at a salary of \$90,000 a year. The Research Specialists are needed to ensure that Hawaii's correctional system is following best practices by conducting an "ongoing study and investigation" of correctional law and policies in the United States and other countries, federal law that may affect the Commission, scholarly articles and studies on correctional best practices published in the correctional literature, and investigate and study the reaction of residents to existing and potential features of the correctional system.

3. **One Reentry Specialist** at a salary of \$125,000 a year to ensure that the reentry program is working properly and that prisoners complete all required programming in a timely manner so that their release is not delayed due to lack of programming.
4. **One Office Assistant** at a salary of \$86,000 a year to help manage the office, receive and organize complaints, and perform other administrative duties as needed.

The Commission is also seeking the travel funds necessary to oversee and monitor correctional centers on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii Island, and the Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona, as well as funds for conferences and other funding that is required to operate an effective and efficient commission.

To those who would say that Hawaii’s correctional system does not need oversight, I would point out that in the past three years the Oversight Commission has been engaged and effective in improving Hawaii’s correctional system. The following are just a few of the many activities the Commission has been involved in:

- (1) In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Commission established infectious disease emergency capacities for the Hawaii Community Correctional Center, the Maui Community Correctional Center, the Oahu Community Correctional Center, the Kauai Community Correctional Center, the Women’s Community Correctional Center, the Waiawa Correctional Facility, the Kulani Correctional Facility, and the Halawa Correctional Facility. These capacities were utilized by the Hawaii Supreme Court’s Special Master in addressing lawsuits concerning COVID-19;
- (2) Drafted a report, recommendations, and proposed legislation to safely reduce overcrowding in Hawaii’s jails by safely reducing the pretrial population;
- (3) Recommended legislation on bail reform that would significantly reduce the pretrial population statewide and allow the State to build a smaller and less expensive jail to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center;
- (4) Reported on conditions at correctional facilities that are unconstitutional and endanger the lives of inmates, including severe overcrowding, the use of a shipping container (see photo at right) to house inmates exposed to COVID-19, lack of programs, lack of basic services and hygiene, cell doors secured with padlocks that would delay



reaching inmates in the event of a fire or other emergency, the lack of in-person visits, five female inmates sleeping on mattresses on the floor of a cell that had no toilet or water, lack of cameras, critical staffing shortages, mentally ill prisoners housed in punitive conditions, lack of privacy for medical examinations (potential HIPPA violations), lack of air conditioning, and a broken electronic medical records system for the past eight months that jeopardizes the lives of all Hawaii inmates.

(5) Provided advice and guidance to the Department of Public Safety and the Legislature on the planning for a new jail to replace OCCC; and

(6) Helped to educate the community about correctional matters by participating in events such as the Criminal Law Forum hosted by the Hawaii State Bar Association, Mana Ekolu hosted by the Pu'a Foundation, and working with the Justice-Involved Homeless Intergovernmental Collaboration project on Hawaii Island.

The funds the Oversight Commission is seeking amount to only .31% of the Department of Public Safety's FY 2023 budget. That is a small amount to pay to ensure that our jails and prisons are operating in a fair, just, and equitable manner, and that our correctional system meet state and federal constitutional standards.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I had the privilege to participate in The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo and earned my degree in 2011. As a result of this quality program I was able to find employment as a Behavioral Health Specialist in 2012. At present I work at Waiakea High in the field of School-Based Behavioral Health. The Masters' program at UH Hilo is needed and plays a vital role in our community and is essential for the future of our community.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Misti Madden

P.O. Box 1922, Keaau, HI, 96749

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:02:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Juliano	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/7/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

I am a school counselor for middle and high school and have watched the landscape of teenage mental health change drastically over the last three years. The situation is dire. Daily, we have students with suicide ideation, self harm, eating disorders, extreme fatigue and issues at home with parents. We frequently have to refer out for a higher level of care as there is only so much support we can provide in the middle of a school day for 30 minutes. Schools act as triage sites for mental health crises. If we do not have anyone to refer them to we are unable to do our jobs and get them the support they need. I am constantly having to say "I know the waitlists are long but just hang in there," to desperate and fearful parents. Our provider list that we currently work off it is completely full - no one is accepting new patients, at which point we send them to Queens. Queens is also overworked and should not have to receive kids who do not need inpatient treatment but just need a therapist! It's simple.

There seems to be a solution close at hand, it is imperative that this additional funding is put into this bill.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

By simply hiring two more assistant professors and a program coordinator we can double our efforts to combat this mental health crisis that will only continue to get out of control. Double the amount of trained therapists on island and throughout the neighbor islands.

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

Sincerely,

Catherine Juliano

1913A Mott Smith Drive

Honolulu HI 96822

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:34:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Rote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii

As the Director of Student-Athlete Development at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I have worked over two decades with University student-athletes needing mental health support services. In the past five years the mental health needs of the students and student-athletes I work with have increased drastically.

I am currently enrolled and on track to graduate with my second masters degree in mental health counseling from UH Hilo this summer. Having completed my doctorate degree and over 100 graduate level courses in the UH system, I can attest the high quality of education and training

the UH Hilo Counseling Psychology program provides. Of all the departments I have taken courses in the UH system, the UH Hilo Psychology stands above the rest. This department will use the funding wisely and drastically make a difference and impact in our community.

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Rote

380 Haleloa Place

Honolulu HI 96821

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:39:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Powers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. **I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology.** The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

As a current student of this program, I can attest to the UH Hilo MA program's high quality standards and practices. This program has been incredibly meaningful to me and has played a crucial role in the development of the counseling skills that I will utilize to serve the Hawai'i population. Our professors care deeply about emerging professionals receiving the best quality education they can, and through allowing more funding, they can make the program more effective. Our state desperately needs more mental health professionals, and as a member of the Big Island community, I see this need in my interactions every day. Existing counselors have waiting lists for months, and **our community members need mental health support now.** There are many times I am studying in the community and meet people, then upon hearing that I am working towards becoming a therapist, individuals express gratitude, relief and then frustration at this island's severe lack of existing mental health services. These services are critical for our island's overall stability and wellbeing, and we are not doing enough as a community to support our mental health professionals! I hope you will consider that supporting the development of this field includes training professionals to work with the populations that specifically reside on the Hawaiian islands. UH Hilo's Clinical Counseling Psychology programs goes above and beyond in teaching us the foundations of counseling, along with specific cultural considerations we must employ when working with Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations. This specialized knowledge is crucial to working with our population, and even when counselors/psychologists do move from the mainland, they do not have the knowledge of Hawaiian values, customs and practices that help us most effectively serve our community. UH Hilo's program sets up professionals for success by providing insight on how to care most effectively for Hawaiian clients, including families and children. Investing in this program is an investment in the overall mental health and wellbeing of our residents, and I hope you will consider these implications on a state level.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Emily Powers

15-2724 Welea St, Pahoa HI 96778

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:42:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madalyn Freedman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/7/23

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Madalyn Freedman
88-1554 Ewalu Ave, Captain Cook, HI 96704

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:45:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Tokishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Dean Tokishi

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 8:55:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Uyeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In regards to power outages and support for the Saratoga Avenue Electrical and Communication Infrastructure improvements, I have been working at the Kalaeloa facility trying to support my mission to provide medical support to our servicepersons and their families. Power outages happen too often affecting our mission and loss of temperature sensitive medical products, to include but limited to, immunizations, is often jeopardized. As the growth of Kapolei continues, having improved infrastructure improvements is much needed to accommodate Kapolei's growth and to continue our mission.

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

On a personal note, I am an alumnus of this program. The program and especially the faculty changed my life. Not only did I grow exponentially as a person during the program, I continue to be supported by the faculty in impactful ways. Because of this, I am able to share my expertise and serve our community with confidence. It is essential that the program be able to expand and support our community by training more individuals to be of service in the mental health field.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Jamaica A Moake

13-154 Puakenikeni Place, Pahoa HI 96778

Hawai'i House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
1000, Conference Room 308
Hawai'i State Capitol

Aloha Hawai'i House of Representatives' Committee on Finance Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and Members Aiu, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Kahaloa, Kila, Kobayashi, Lamosao, Morikawa, Nishimoto, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Alcos, and Ward,

I write seeking your kokua to approve and pass the General Appropriations Act of 2023, HB 300, Governor Joshua Green's Administration Budget, which currently includes resources to support the uncommon mission of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, LNR 908 and LNR 907, respectively.

Customary use, skillful care, familial connections, meaningful access, traditional knowledge, thoughtful stewardship, ancestral memory, professional management, and educational exploration are able to thrive on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe with the support of our legislators and legislature.

The Sea, *Kai*, *Awa*, Reef, Sands, Beach, Stream, Pond, *paia*, and House of Kuloloia thanks you for your care and *malama* of our sacred and special places, persons, and resources of Hawaii Nei.

Me Ke Aloha Maluhia,

Manuel WMD Kuloloio

Manuel Wayne Makahiapo DeCosta Kuloloio



HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:07:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Garcia	Anuenue Psychological Service, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/7/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Hawaii has the highest rates of suicidality amongst our growing Polynesian Keiki in the world. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Garcia Psy D

Clinical Psychologist

99-080 Kauhale St. Ste C20 Aiea, HI 96701

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Nashla Rivas Salas, Civilian Oversight Professional
New York, NY

SUBJECT: House Bill 300, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 8th 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nashla Rivas Salas, I am a civilian oversight professional working in New York. I have been doing civilian oversight of jails for the last seven years and currently work on oversight of the New York State Prisons. During this time, I have learned firsthand how important adequate funding is to the success of an oversight entity. Without the necessary funding, oversight entities face staffing constraints that present barriers to the agency's ability to perform the critical work it has been tasked to do. The National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement's report list adequate funding and operational resources as one of the thirteen principles for effective civilian oversight of law enforcement. "Allocating sufficient resources to civilian oversight is crucial determinant to effectiveness."¹ Entities that have received adequate funding can ensure the work is thorough, timely and of a high-level quality. Having adequate funding also signals to law enforcement executives and other possible funders the legislature's commitment to reform.

This legislature has already made the commitment of creating the first oversight commitment for Hawai'i. Given that this office is so new (*office opened in July 2022*), it is important to ensure they are properly funded to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

I am writing to request that you consider supporting the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$995,395 for FY24 and \$880,395 FY25 which includes seven total positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at mrs.rivassalas@gmail.com. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Best Regards,

Nashla Rivas Salas

¹ Thirteen Principles for Effective Oversight, National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement
<https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0951-pub.pdf>

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:24:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
johann winkler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Johann Winkler

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

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The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am currently in my final semester of this amazing program. As I am an international student from Canada, I moved my life away from home in order to follow my dreams and attend this program. I would not have done this if I didn't see the importance of mental health and how the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology goes above and beyond to train their students to be the best mental health counselors they can be. I am sure you know how important mental health and well-being is for each and every person. I am asking that you show that you know this by helping to create more supports for people through-out all of the Hawaiian islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Seward.

851 S. Kihei Rd. Kihei, Hawaii 96753

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:31:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Myers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training. About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Tara Myers

Po Box 1083, kapaa HI 96746

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:41:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Polk	university of hawaii at hilo - hilo,hi,usa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training. About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as posttraumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings. The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Emily Polk
75-5660 Kopiko St. Ste C7

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am currently enrolled in the UH Hilo Master's program for Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This program is allowing me to learn the needed skills and information in order to be able to help others to the best of my ability. Having more funding and more faculty to support me in my journey would be so beneficial to my cohort and the ones following.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Taylon Manuel

6740 Pukoo Street

Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:42:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briyana Allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/7/2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34- year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,
Briyana Allen
320 Kaumana Dr

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:44:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Andrea Manzana	UH Hilo M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, My name is Diane Manzana and I am in support for the HB300 bill. As a current M.A. counseling student, I believe that the education for future therapist is very important. Since the year of the pandemic, mental health has been at an all time low and many people have brought up mental health as a rising concern for the general population (Hawaii included). It is also not uncommon for local people to find graduate schools in the mainland; this small little factor can contribute to the need for more local therapists as not only is the mental health of our community is declining, but also the amount of the therapists that can relate to the people's values and culture of Hawaii. By funding for our schools, we can increase the value of our education as well as our reputation and increase the amount of future therapists needed to better our community and home.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:53:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Delgado Altamirano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I live and work in the area addressed by this bill since 2019. It is difficult living in fear of having power and communications in my home go down every time there are heavy rains or high winds. In the last three months we have had more than 5 power outages. Please vote "Yes" on HB300 to help improve the neglected infrastructure of this area in Kapolei. Thank you.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:53:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance

I urge you to fully fund the budget request of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. The legislature created the Commission, understanding that the important function of public safety requires public oversight. Recently we have seen that DPS still employs a trainer who is unqualified, that rapes at the Women's Community Correctional Center have apparently been going on for years, and today's report that there is a major drug problem at Halawa prison. It is clear that DPS has not been able to manage the prison system in ways compatible with the directions set by the legislature. That is unlikely to change unless there is light shown on the current situation, with assistance in making changes. That is the responsibility of the Commission, but cannot happen without adequate support.

Please honor the legislature's intent in creating the Commission by adding funding for adequate staffing and operation to the State budget.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 9:54:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Chronis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34- year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely, Angela Chronis PO Box 992, Hana, HI 96713

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 10:07:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Prieto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you about the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The current UH System Biennium Budget includes a request to support three positions for the MA Program at UHH. This program is the only one in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors. Because the program runs on all islands via hybrid distance and in-person training, should this request be funded, it would allow the program to expand and continue to provide high-quality training to future Mental Health Providers across the state. The program is wonderful and very inclusive. The cohort that I am a part of is very diverse and aware of the mental health issues of the local community as well as the global world. I believe that this program is extra special because it uses an integrative model that is aware of different cultures and values both autonomy and interconnectedness. It trains counselors to be the most aware not only of themselves but also of their local community.

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

The budget request submitted by the Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand

by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology's request.

Sincerely,

Angela Prieto

82-1056 Kiloa Rd. Captain Cook, HI 96704

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 11:11:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Noneza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB300. This bill will allow KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 12:29:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirsten W Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/6/23

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai‘i’s budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters’ Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am a licensed alumni in the county of Hawaii. Working in the field throughout the past six years, in multiple group practices, I have witnessed many cathartic experiences for our youth, parents, and families pre-and-post pandemic. Walking with them as they found the courage to

break the chains of intergenerational trauma and develop healthier lifestyles have and will continue to plant seeds of hope. However, with the mental health demands after 2020, my colleagues and I have felt the burn out of meeting our community's needs with a declining pool of therapists; most are fatigued and moving toward salary jobs that take them out of direct service work. This could be broached by increasing our pre-licensed therapists and their opportunities for enriching and appropriately-paid internship experiences for my and other rural environments that are in dire need of more assistance. Supporting this system would more likely lead counselors to want to become licensed and establish longterm services. The efforts required as this time are truly magnanimous, but, I am assured that each counseling session moves the needle towards a happier, more satisfied society and thereby economy.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Kirsten Wong, LMHC, MA

150 Kimokimo Place

Hilo, HI 96720

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 1:04:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia-Lee Lum Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB300. I am in full SUPPORT of this State Budget measure which establishes a new program identification for the KIRC and provides full-year funding for two new KIRC full-time positions being established this fiscal year. The additional staff support will allow the KIRC to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Additionally, I support the adoption of Governor Green's budget amendments that include much needed general funds for the long-term operations and maintenance of the KIRC's Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. The support provided by this measure will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB300.

Thank you,

Tricia-Lee Lum Ho

March 7, 2023

Subject: HB 300 – Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the HB 300. I support HB 300 with amendments, and strongly recommend the House Finance Committee adopt and include the University of Hawai'i's budget request which in part supports the UH Hilo MA Program in Counseling Psychology. The Masters' Program in Counseling Psychology at UH Hilo will allow ***the only program in the UH System that trains Mental Health Counselors to expand and continue to provide high-quality training.***

About one in five adults and one in six children live with a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10–14-year-old children and 25-34-year-old adults. Mental health counselors work with clients of all ages to help them live healthier, happier lives. They typically provide talk therapy where they supportively listen to their clients and provide specific evidence-based interventions for a variety of issues such as anxiety and depression, navigating transitions in life, career counseling, grief counseling, and relationship problems to more severe challenges such as post-traumatic stress, suicidality, substance abuse problems and severe mental illness. Mental health counselors work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, public and private elementary and secondary schools, correctional facilities, vocational rehabilitation centers, residential care facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, child welfare, and military and veteran counseling settings.

The need for highly-trained mental health professionals was a known problem prior to the pandemic, and the situation has only gotten worse over the last three years. Since the UH Hilo MA Program is a hybrid distance education program, approximately 20 highly-trained graduates enter the workforce throughout the state of Hawaii each year. About half of these graduates are located on the island of Oahu and the other half are dispersed throughout the neighbor islands.

I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who currently supervises a student in this program. I am impressed by the high-quality education and training she has received. I urge this committee to approve the budget request, as our community desperately needs more qualified mental health professionals.

The budget request submitted by the UH Board of Regents supports the hiring of two Assistant Professors and one Program Coordinator for the program. This will allow the program to expand by increasing student enrollment by 50%, which will produce more well-trained mental health counselors who can enter the field and provide much needed support to the residents of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,



Anamarie Piloton

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 1:54:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mayone Kinikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Everything possible should be done so that our criminal justice system can operate in a fair manner. We must remember that

" no life is less valuable than another"

--Father Gregory

for too long Hawaii's criminal justice system has been operating as if we are in the dark ages. Wake up!

vote for measures that will actually help those who are incarcerated. Most of them have addiction and/ or mental health issues which are ignored-- made worse by the treatment they receive.

March 8, 2023

TO: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: HB 300 Relating to the State Budget

Position: **Support for funding of the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission**

I am writing today to support the funding request of the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC). In order to fulfill the mandate of Act 179 (2019) which established the Commission, that body must have a sufficient budget for paid staff and other normally occurring expenses of state boards and commissions.

Recent events revealed the importance of an oversight body for our correctional facilities. Act 179 (2019) rightly established the Commission to “oversee the State’s correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.” The Act also mandates other responsibilities of the Commission which cannot be accomplished without staff and without funding for other normally occurring expenses.

The members of the Commission are subject matter experts who serve the State of Hawaii and only receive reimbursement for expenses that are necessary for the performance of their duties. They are not paid employees. Because they serve as volunteers, at the very least, the State should do its part by appropriating funds that support their efforts to achieve the goals of Act 179.

In my past experience in State government, I have had the privilege of serving as staff to two State boards. Those board members took their roles and responsibilities seriously and staff are needed to facilitate and further their work. I am amazed at what the HCSOC has accomplished to date with their limited resources. They could and would accomplish more with a budget that respects the responsibilities that they have been given.

I urge the Committee to approve the budget for the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my support for their funding.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
 Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
 Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
 Via Videoconference/Conf Rm 308

RE: **HB 300 – support to INCREASE Kupuna Care funding
 in Executive Office on Aging budget (HTH 904)**

I am a senior, over age 60, and ask that you please **support this bill to increase Kupuna Care funding** which funds services for seniors and caregivers, like Transportation, Personal Care, Adult Day Care and more!

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Wayne Awakuni	Wayne Awakuni	96817
Kathleen	Kathleen	96816
HEROKO NISHIRO	HEROKO NISHIRO	96818
Edna Jackson	Edna Jackson	96817
GILBERT BROWN	Gilbert Brown	96734
Henry Fujita	Henry Fujita	96813
Beverly Fujita	Beverly Fujita	96813
ARLENE J. GRAY	Arlene J. Gray	96817
Sharon Yamaguchi	Sharon Yamaguchi	96822
Edward Hasegawa	Edward Hasegawa	96817
Susan M Tamura-Bart	Susan M Tamura-Bart	96818
Alice Kane	Alice Kane	96815
Cheryl Feagins	Cheryl M Feagins	96815

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference/Conf Rm 308

RE: **HB 300 – support to INCREASE Kupuna Care funding
in Executive Office on Aging budget (HTH 904)**

I am a senior, over age 60, and ask that you please **support this bill to increase Kupuna Care funding** which funds services for seniors and caregivers, like Transportation, Personal Care, Adult Day Care and more!

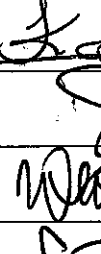
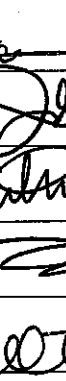



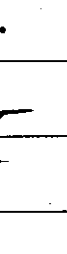
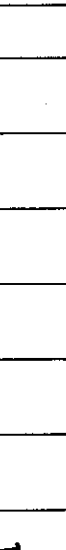
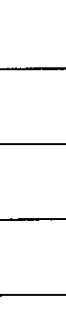
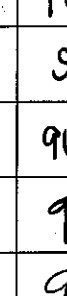
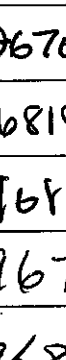
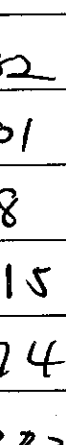


PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
L. Luchia	L. Luchia	96817
L. Lemj	L. Lemj	96706
CASTRO	CASTRO	96734
S. Macadangdang	S. Macadangdang	96734
Masago Asai	M. Asai	96825
Akiko Schlegel	Akiko Schlegel	96822
AYA BRAZELL	AYA BRAZELL	96744
DIANE S. Azevedo	DIANE S. Azevedo	96744
DIANE K. Kikela	DIANE K. Kikela	96789
Kathy Tawata	Kathy Tawata	96815
Lori Ann Saunders	Lori Ann Saunders	96821
Daryl Hawah	Daryl J. Tawata	96815
Jean Suzuki	Jean Suzuki	96817

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Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
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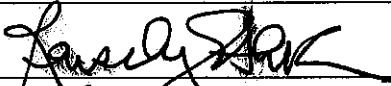

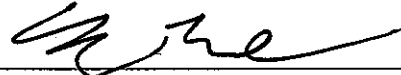
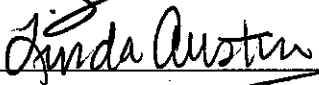
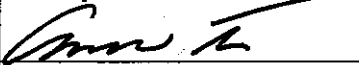

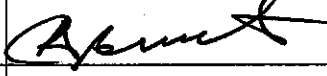
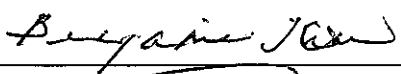
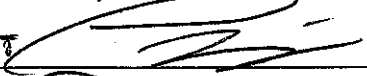



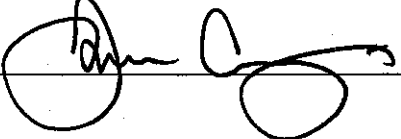
PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Karla Calistro		96782
Judy Iwamoto		96701
Whitney Ueno		96818
Sumi Nakashima		96815
Lila Ota		96744
Heisook Forks		96822
Kristin Clark		96816
Ai Ise Barranger		96819
Analya Simon		96797
Yosa Shimabukuro		96817
GORDON FERNANDEZ		96817
Owen Terada		96701
Mary Jo Resurreccion		96789

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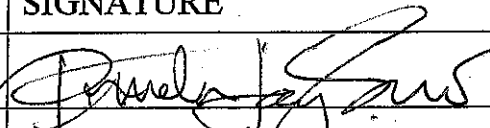

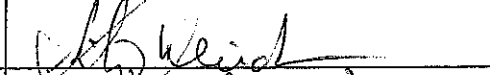





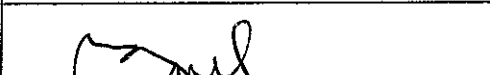
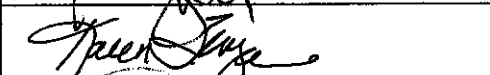
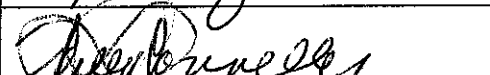
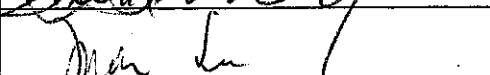
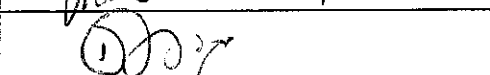
PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Rensely P. Ahik		96813
Valerie Rose		96701
Sy Nakao		96786
Linda Austin		96817
Andrew Bow		96825
Lih Hashimoto		96802
Angelina Buccat		96819
Benjamin Kum		96813
TERRENCE TWAUOTE		96701
John Panada		96822
Leena Tamany		96822
Ronee Iosefa		96797
Lance Cariaga		96817

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
PSUNWOOD		96734
SALUNINA N. VILLASIS		96815
Lily Weidmann		96813
KAREN TAKAMINE		96814
Ruby Chan		96817
Dorothy Wong		96701
Lynn Sekiya		96817
B.W. SENIORS		96819
Beth Miguel		96819
Karen Teruya		96701
Willa Donnelly		4980
Marjorie Lee		96816
DEXTER HONG		96814

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Angela Goodbody	Angela Goodbody	96819
Linda Agu	Linda Agu	96813
Karen Takeshita	Karen	96814
Aiko Nakamura	Aiko	96819
Doris Iwata	Doris Iwata	96826
Randy Mau	Randy Mau	96818
Valerie Wong	Valerie Wong	96813
Janet Miyashiro	Janet Miyashiro	96817
Marilyn Kobata	Marilyn M. Kobata	96813
Stephanie Underwood	S. Underwood	96817
Pauline J. Baba	Pauline J. Baba	96817
Margaret Pun	Margaret Pun	96824
Sharon Chun	Sharon Chun	96817

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William Yee	William Yee	96819
SHARON NOMURA SHARON NOMURA	Sharon Nomura	96782
Alva Nomura	Alva Nomura	96782
Louisa Nomura	Louisa Nomura	96818
June Higa	June Higa	96822
Ethel Tagawa	Ethel Tagawa	96818
Donna Masuda Kam	Donna Masuda Kam	96817
JAMES H. HINO	James H. Hino	96822
Linda Mabalto	Linda Mabalto	96701
Calvin Mabalto	Calvin Mabalto	96701
Sue Fujitani	Sue Fujitani	96813
Mary Castillo	Mary Castillo	96817
Alva Nomura	Alva Nomura	96782

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Marjorie Yoshioka	Marjorie Yoshioka	96819
Udit Oyadomari	Udit Oyadomari	96817
Darlene Yoshioka	Darlene Yoshioka	96818
Eileen KAJIOKA	Eileen Kajioka	96817
MARVI SHIBUYA	Marvi Shibuya	96701
Gayle Fukunaga	Gayle Fukunaga	96701
Billy Ann Sch	Billy Ann Schaeffer	96744
VIOLETA FEBEN TO	Violeta Feben To	96819
ENCARNACION FATARDO	Encarnacion Fardo	96819
Faye Rainey	Faye Rainey	96817
Charlotte Higa	Charlotte Higa	96818
Linda Oku	Linda Oku	96817
Irene Hino	Irene Hino	96825

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Brigid Nakamura	Brigid Nakamura	96814
Keiji Murakami	Keiji Murakami	96825
Jo-Awa MURATA	Murata	96814
JAMES KRAMER	James Kramer	96814
DORINE ICHIKAWA	Dorine Ichikawa	96818
Emmie C. Otake	Emmie C. Otake	96818
Jocelyn Ho	Jocelyn Ho	96817
Audrey Young	Audrey Young	96817
Paul Monisaw	Paul Monisaw	96818
Marilyn Inokawa	Marilyn Inokawa	96817
June Ng	June Ng	96817
Klaus Lai	K.L.	96818
Lillian Inatsuka	LILLIAN S. INATSKA	96817

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Beverly Mau	<i>Beverly Mau</i>	96816
Dorothy Mau	<i>Dorothy Mau</i>	96811
Marion Masuda	<i>Marion Masuda</i>	96813 96813
Judine Lee	<i>Judine Lee</i>	96816
Barbara Sawahne	<i>Barbara Sawahne</i>	96701
Wileen S. Ije	<i>Wileen S. Ije</i>	96819
Alice Tsutsumi	<i>Alice Tsutsumi</i>	96817
Leila Ishiki	<i>Leila Ishiki</i>	96813
Mabel Ishimoto	<i>Mabel Ishimoto</i>	96817
Sharon Isa	<i>Sharon Isa</i>	96814
Lorraine Murawski	<i>Lorraine Murawski</i>	96813
Tsuyako Iwamoto	<i>Tsuyako Iwamoto</i>	96817
CAROL IZUMI	<i>Carol Izumi</i>	96817

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BETH ANN SCHOEMER	Beth Ann Schomer	96744
VIOLET TOKUMURA	Violet Tokumura	96744
SHERYLE CURTIS	S. Curtis	96813
Jean Nishida	Jean Nishida	⁹⁵²³ 9767552
Joy Shimizu	Joy Shimizu	96819
Wendy Tachikawa	Wendy Tachikawa	96817
GILBERT BROWN	Gilbert Brown	96734
Mae Hong	Mae K. Hong	96817
DEE YAMAMOTO	Dee Yamamoto	96813
Yoshiko Suzuki	Yoshiko Suzuki	96817
STEVEN TACKER	Steven Tacker	96825
SUSIE CHUN OAKLAND	Susie Chun Oakland	96817
Mona Chock	Mona Chock	96813

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Clarice Kuman	Clarice Kuman	96819
JEANETTE SHIOHIRA	Jeanette Shiohira	96826
Richard Tada	Richard Tada	96819
Wilhelmina & Mark Ne	Bride Wilhelmina Ne	96817
Pauline J. Baba	Pauline J. Baba	96817
Franklin Y. Otake	Franklin Y. Otake	96818
Hiroaki Kato	Hiroaki Kato	96744
Gynthia Baclaan	Gynthia Baclaan	96701
JOHN AWAKANI	John Awakani	96817
FRANKLIN TOMA	Franklin Toma	96744
Nancy Hirano	Nancy Hirano	96701
LANE MATSUMOTO	Lane Matsumoto	96817
Aileen Tamura	Aileen Tamura	96817

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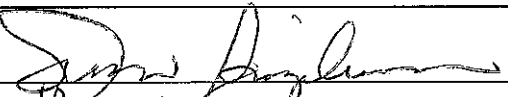
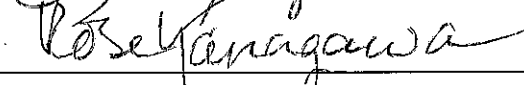


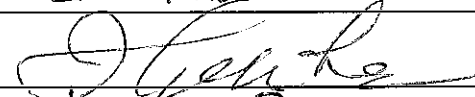
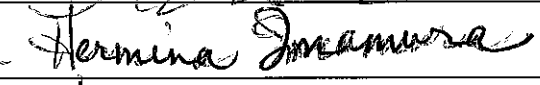
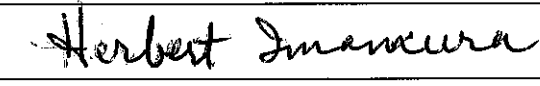
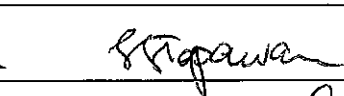

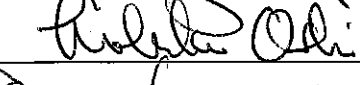
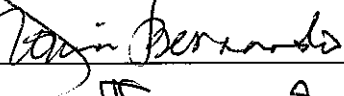
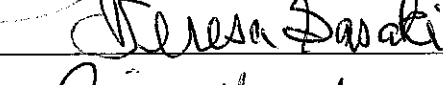

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
DANIELA ALI		96701
Lolita Ho	Lolita Ho	96813
Grey Ching	Grey Ching	96819
Koko KAGENO	Koko Kageno	96817
Maria Kageno	Maria Kageno	96817
Glenn Hejara	Glenn Hejara	96744
Ronald Shin	Ronald Shin	96819
Yurie Takai	Yurie Takai	96815
Mae Wakazuru	Mae Wakazuru	96814
Elaine Lee	Elaine Lee	96816
Muhammad Asif	Muhammad Asif	94826
Helen Katahira	Helen Katahira	96817
Stephanie Hashimoto	Stephanie Hashimoto	96817

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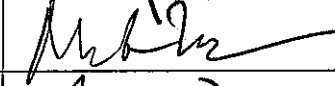
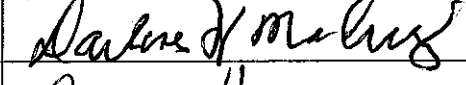
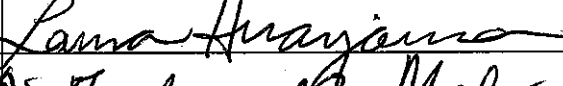

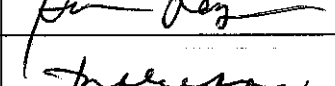
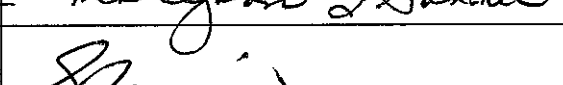



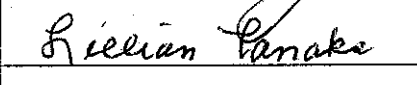
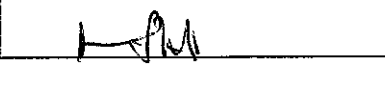

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Jean Sugihara		96718
Rose Yanagawa		96819
Doreen Katsutani		96817
CALVIN "		96817
Helen Lee		96815
Hermina Imamura		96819
Herbert Imamura		96819
Lodidario Tapawan		96707
Beth Miguel		96819
Nobuko Oshiro		8634
Marcus Bernardo		96707
Teresa Sasaki		96814
Jeanette Yamano		96819

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Nancy China		96826
DERRICK URABE		96819
Darlene Madriaga		96819
Laura Hirayama		96822
APRIANA FERDINAND		96801
Choria Reynon		96818
MARYANN F. PADILLA		96701
SHARON NAKAI		96817
Rose Togashi		96813
Carlos Vergabera		96817
KEN NAKAMURA		96825
Lillian Tanaka		96818
Ingrid Tota		96826

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Lithea Nakamoto	L. Nakamoto	96817
Faith Osuman	Faith Osuman	96818
Arlene Nagamine	Arlene Nagamine	96816
GILBERT BROWN	Gilbert Brown	96734
Annette Platt	Annette Platt	96819
Robert Matsumoto	Robert Matsumoto	96817
Eileen Clarke	Eileen Clarke	96814
YUKIKO	Y. Takahashi	96817
AYAKO SASAHARA	Ayako Sasahara	96817
JoAnn Higuchi	JoAnn Higuchi	96817
EDWARD LEE	Edward Lee	96815
PEGGY FEARN	Peggy Fearn	96825

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Diana Kawaguchi	Diana Kawaguchi	96734
SUMIKO WAKASAKI	Sumiko Wakasaki	96818
Karen Miyahira-Kanbe	Karen Miyahira-Kanbe	96812
Ann Young	Ann Young	96817
Jane Tada	Jane Tada	96789
Emilia Collins	Emilia Collins	96816
Cynthia Oshiro	Cynthia Oshiro	96701
Karen Watson	Karen Watson	96817
Corinne Chan	Corinne Chan	96822
Marion Arakaki	Marion Arakaki	96817
Jean Murakawa	Jean Murakawa	96816
Frank Murakawa	Frank Murakawa	96816

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
 Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
 Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
 Via Videoconference/Conf Rm 308

RE: **HB 300 – support to INCREASE Kupuna Care funding
 in Executive Office on Aging budget (HTH 904)**

I am a senior, over age 60, and ask that you please **support this bill to increase Kupuna Care funding** which funds services for seniors and caregivers, like Transportation, Personal Care, Adult Day Care and more!

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Na Ma	E	96817
Sandra Toma	Sandra Toma	96744
Ann Takaki	A. Takaki	96817
HENRY CHO	Henry Cho	96818
John Moore	John Moore	96813
Amy Nishimura	Amy Nishimura	96805
Karen San Juan	Karen San Juan	96817
Elizabeth Lum	Elizabeth Lum	96813
Donna Compton	Donna Compton	96822
Joyce R Nakamura	Joyce R Nakamura	96818
MITSUKO OKABE	Mitsuko Okabe	96701
Beatrice M, Kan	Beatrice M, Kan	96813
JOAN KINA	Joan Kina	96817

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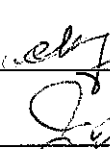


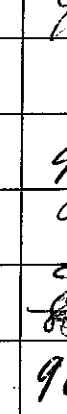
PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Amy Sakagawa	Amy Sakagawa	96819
Jan Titgen	Jan Titgen	96817
Mary Chun	Mary Chun	96821
Judy DiBianco	Judy DiBianco	96734
Karen Oda	Karen Oda	96817
Rosie Ramiro	Rosie Ramiro	96782
LINDA CANNICIA	Linda Cannicia	96706
Eleanor Ige	Eleanor Ige	96817
Jane Morreira	Jane Morreira	96814
GILBERT BROWN	Gilbert Brown	96734
DONALD HIRSH	Donald Hirsh	96818
HARRY NAKASONE	Harry Nakasone	96819
PAULINE NAUMU	Pauline Naumu	96818

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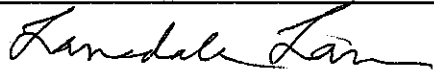
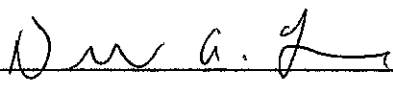
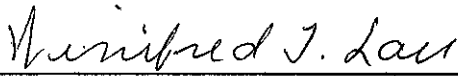
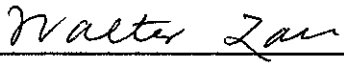
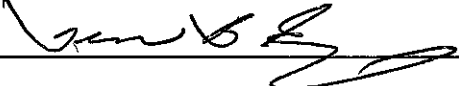

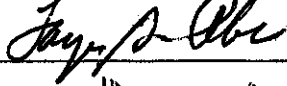
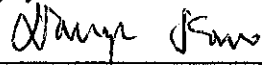
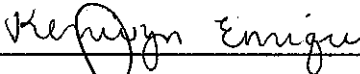

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ZIP CODE
Puna Frank		96817
Jane S. Higa	Jane S. Higa	96817
NANCY YEDA	Nancy Yeda	96817
Ethel Milner	Ethel Milner	96818
Amy Bratt		96834
DORIS DOUGHTY	Doris Doughty	96817 96817
PAUL CARLSON JR.	Paul Carlson Jr.	96744
Loke Wong		96821
THAI VUONG Thai Vuong		2864982
Colette F. d. Young	Colette F. d. Young	96822
Mimi Yoshikawa	Mimi Yoshikawa	96822

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LANSDALE LAU		96817
Deborah Lau		90817
Winifred Lau		
WINIFRED LAU		96822
WALTER LAU		96822
TERENCE ENRIQUES		96701
Carol Lee		96821
Faye Abe		96818
DEREK KONO		96816
Kenwyn Enriques		96701
LESLIE ASADA		96701

Violet Kato and Kalyssa Orikasa

Regarding Finance Committee

3/6/23

Hello, our names are Violet Kato and Kalyssa Orikasa and we are concerned students from Maui Waena Intermediate School. We are testifying about low teacher salaries and how it can affect their daily life. We think all teachers should be provided with the opportunity to be financially independent in Hawaii without having to worry about being in debt. As all of you must know living in Hawaii is not cheap and if the average teacher gets a house on their own, eats a less than substantial amount of food, and drives a car they will have barely any money left for personal expenses such as children or a happy spouse. To go more into detail, at the end of January in 2020, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates publicized the “Hawaii Teacher Compensation Study and Recommendation” about teacher pay and based on the results of a few surveys, it’s not only a few teachers who feel this way. Around 1995 of the 2100 total respondents were teachers, instructional staff and student support professionals and they gave their input on common factors and whether it was positive or negative. Results showed that 87% said the salaries in relationship to the cost of living were negative for teacher retention and 88% said the salaries in relationship to the cost of living were also negative for teacher recruitment. Survey participants were also allowed to write more factors that they thought positively or negatively had an effect on teacher recruitment and retention and some common factors were about salary levels, cost of living , cost of housing, the amount taken out for taxes, student debt payments and health care costs. There was also a listening session that took place for this study and educators expressed that they were frustrated due to the fact that they couldn’t afford things like housing, student debt payments, groceries and medical care. School supplies were also an

added cost that teachers have to pay with their salary due to the overall lack in school funding. Another question asked them to vote about the benefits of the current pay schedule and all response choices were under 35%, the lowest being 24% and 21% which corresponds to the stability and equity categories. Many teachers also said that they might even have to leave the teaching profession when coming to Hawaii because of the salary which is making it financially unsustainable. Overall, 92% of respondents recommended to increase all teacher salaries, 95% recommended to increase salaries for experienced teachers and 79% recommended to increase salaries for starting teachers.

You may be wondering why two students are taking action to improve something for teachers, and that is because the lack in teacher funding can also affect our learning as well. Coming back to school after covid was hard, there were many days where we would have to spend our hour long class blocks in the cafeteria doing absolutely nothing because there was no teacher or substitute for our class. Originally, we made a survey asking teachers what problems can't be solved because we don't have any money. Teachers said that due to the low salary, it is hard to hire and retain teachers which can jeopardize our education and opportunities to learn more by not having enough teachers or having a teacher who can't properly teach us because they didn't get the proper training. A table provided in the study shows the teacher attrition and new hiring rate for 6 school years going from 2012 to 2018 and the numbers showed that half of the years more hires were made but the other half there were less. The total numbers of teachers kept increasing, but one major factor is the teachers' experience. Of those new hires, around a third of them have had teaching experience in Hawaii but took time away from teaching for their own reasons, but two thirds of the hires have maybe had a history in teaching, but not in Hawaii.

At first, this started off as an email to Hawaii representatives for a reform project for social studies, but as we did more research and got the voices from more teachers, we felt this was a more important problem than we originally thought. So with our passion for this problem and the suggestion from our district representative, we decided to write this testimony.

Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony. We hope that you will consider our testimony and help improve teachers' salaries as it will help teachers by allowing them to afford necessities and improve our education by giving us more opportunities to expand our knowledge.

Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, "Hawaii Teacher Compensation Study and Recommendations" hawaiipublicschools.org, 20 January 2020.

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/OTM/Hawaii%20Teacher%20Compensation%20Study%20and%20Recommendations,%20Final%20Report%201.20.2020.pdf>

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 6:37:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting comments on HB300, relating to the state budget and appropriating funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

I urge this commission to consider the following proposed amendments:

Delete funding for ALOHA TOWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - if Aloha Tower is now wholly owned by HPU why does 1 FTE need \$1.8M?

Delete funding for SPECTATOR EVENTS & SHOWS - ALOHA STADIUM - if Aloha Stadium is closed why does it need \$8.7M for spectator events or shows?

Delete funding for NEW OCCC FACILITY and reallocate the \$15M for programs and services that eliminate root causes of criminalized behavior, reduce recidivism and rebuilds supportive and productive relationship within the community.

Earmark \$1.8M of PSD funding to fully fund the Hawai`i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission that was created in 2019.

Earmark the funds for HILO MEDICAL CENTER to be used toward a natural birthing center similar the quality, standards and options of the Waimea Women’s Center that services the West side of Hawaii County.

Earmark the funds for Rental Car Facility Improvement to be used to install electric car charging stations so more electric cars can be added to rental car fleets.

Earmark funding to REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE to fund a State Ombudsman to support compliance and resolve conflicts between Condo/home owners and Community associations.

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 7:53:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Aiu	DLNR-attend zoon meeting as support staff	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dawn Chang will present testimony for the department, I will attend as back-up. (

HB-300

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 9:08:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/8/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Apana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully urge the Legislature to please support House Bill 300, specifically in regards to increasing funding to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC), so that they may hire the necessary staff i.e., investigators and researchers to assist with the daunting task of ensuring inmates and staff reside and work in a safe and secure environment.

Reports from the media, as well as other various documented sources, clearly show that Hawaii's jails and prisons suffer from severe overcrowding, lack of staff, and resources. As a result the conditions are beyond inadequate, but out right dangerous putting inmates and staff in unnecessary and preventable situations. The staff continues to be overwhelmed, and overworked with no end in sight, in addition to a lack of resources to support the health and well being of the inmates. This continues to foster an environment of inefficiency and danger.

It is unrealistic to expect conditions to change from punitive to therapeutic, as our current leadership wisely recommends, if funding and resources are not provided to do so. Again, I urge you to support House Bill 300, so that HCSO, may have the necessary resources to do the work that the Commission was intended to do.

Much mahalo

T