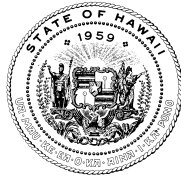


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawaii 'i*

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 JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 22, 2023 AT 2:00PM IN CR 325

SB 1040, SD 2, HD 1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

March 22, 2023

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this measure that requires DHHL to establish the native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and who are on the DHHL waiting list. The measure also appropriates funds.

DHHL appreciates the intent of this measure to establish a native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu. DHHL has recently begun to analyze the number of beneficiaries that are homeless through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Partners-in-Care (PIC), the O'ahu Continuum of Care organization and Bridging the Gap (BTG), the Continuum of Care Organization for the neighbor islands.

Furthermore, DHHL has an RFP out for rehabilitation and renovation of a building in Kalaeloa for use as a temporary transitional housing for homeless native Hawaiian beneficiaries. This type of project to rehabilitate and renovate a building to house homeless beneficiaries is a better first step given that the site in Kalaeloa already has an existing building, the site is near bus stops and other local public facilities, and the site is near the Leeward Coast.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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



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

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

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
in SUPPORT of S.B. 1040 S.D. 2 H.D. 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

Richard I. Ries PsyD, MSEd

1st VICE CHAIRPERSON

Katherine Aumer, PhD

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

SECRETARY

Eileen Lau-James, DVM

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Jackie Jackson, CFPS

Chris Knightsbridge, MAIR, MACL

Kau'i Seguancia

Lea Dias, MEd

Jean Okudara, CSAC

Ray Rice, MEd

Mary Pat Waterhouse

Kristin Will, MACL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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

The SCMH supports the intent of this measure to reduce homelessness which persists in threatening the mental health and well-being of many island residents. The effort seeks to fill a gap in the continuum of housing where the need is acute and urgent.

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

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

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

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:20:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Cruz	Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure, but perhaps with some changes. I support this bill, but with some changes. Perhaps remove the "micro" unit requirement. Any size unit will work, whatever is available. Thanks for allowing opportunity to weigh in.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **SB 1040, SD 2 HD1– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members stand in strong support of SB 1040, SD2 HD1. This measure would require the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to establish the native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and who are on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands waiting list. This measure would also appropriate funds for this pilot program.

As provided in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform adopted at the DPH State Convention on May 28, 2022, this is our policy on HOUSING:

We believe housing is a human right. We believe that each and every person should have access to safe, stable and adequate housing regardless of ability to pay. We support policies that deliver housing that is affordable to people at the bottom of the income scale where the need is greatest. We support policies that reduce barriers to the development of this housing, so long as these policies do not conflict with the tenets laid out in the Environment and Energy plank. We support policies that reduce barriers to homeownership for residents. We support policies that preserve housing for residents and discourage real estate speculation.

We believe that houselessness is the symptom of an inequitable economic system that creates generational poverty and hardship. We believe this system must be changed. We support policy that gets people experiencing houselessness re-housed quickly and efficiently, and we support policy that delivers wrap-around services to recently re-housed individuals and families. We support adequate public funding for these initiatives. [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.hawaiidemocrats.org)

Requiring the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to establish the native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and who are on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands waiting list would be consistent with the policies of the Democratic Party of Hawaii Platform on Homelessness. Please pass this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick. Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

March 22, 2023

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 02:00 p.m.

Location: State Capitol

Re: SB 1040 SD2 HD1, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 1040, Relating to Homelessness.

This bill will require the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to establish the Native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and who are on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands waiting list.

According to the Partners in Care 2022 Point in Time Count, 52% of the overall homeless population identified Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander (NHPI) as either their only race or part of their multiracial identity, despite accounting for only about 20% of the total population. Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) are the ancestral inhabitants of this land, and it is our duty and responsibility to make substantial efforts towards providing safe and secure housing for their community. This program would utilize land from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the micro housing units – land that rightfully belongs to Kānaka Maoli in the first place. The State of Hawai'i has failed the Hawaiian people over the course of its history. It is high time we start remedying our harm and injustices, and we need to do so expeditiously.

Our collective, Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i (OYAH), works to support young people under the age of 25 who are disconnected from school and work, referred to as "opportunity youth." This developmental time period is extremely consequential to the individual growth and overall life chances of our children. **We strongly support this measure.**

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 1040, SD2 HD1.

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:08:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This version of the original bill is a better far cry from the bill initially introduced.

Ready for funding and implementation.

Thank you, M Kapuniai

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:29:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Suzuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With 28,000 Hawaiian on the DHHI waitlist, I feel that this bill will help not only house or houseless it will help heal our people. Being houseless is very traumatizing, and can have long-term effects on a person. We all are aware of the historical trauma that Hawaiian people have been through, being houseless just adds on to their generational trauma that these people go through every day. Once people are housed, then we can help looking into what's the next step for them.

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:03:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Tiwanak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1040 SB RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

On the surface, I applaud this bill and support any attempt to curb homelessness in the Hawaiian Community. There is a great need for more housing under the Hawaiian Homes Act. Development and restrictions related to the development of homes and financing for many on the Hawaiian Homes waiting list creates much pressure for families on the brink.

As we have seen home prices rise as well as the cost of rental properties, along with the increasing cost of utilities and general inflation, housing is a of primary importance.

In the longer term we need to address economic development in the Native Hawaiian community, but first and foremost, people need food, shelter, water and security before they can thrive independently.

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB1040 SD2 HD1.

SB-1040-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:10:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kali Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Fevella of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB 1040 SD2 HD1** relating to the creation of a pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu to provide Individual or shared micro housing units using the rent to own option. The target group are Hawaiians that are homeless, or threatened with Homelessness and who are on the DHHL waiting lists.

While DHHL Chairman, we did the 70-unit single family Ho’olimalima project which was very successful. This was followed with another project in Kona in the Laiopua homesteading project. This is a very good way to leverage funding from HHFDC and other sources.

The State, which has a fiduciary duty to native Hawaiians and the DHHL program under our state constitution, has failed miserably to move the program forward, especially as to it’s biggest need – affordable housing for its beneficiaries, especially the homeless. Use of this approach makes sense.

Hawaiian Community Development Board is a nonprofit focusing primarily on helping beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, but also works with non-beneficiaries.

I urge you to please pass measure **SB 1040 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Kali WAtson