

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 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 SENATE BILL 1551, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and via Video Conference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers supports Senate Bill (SB) 1551, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program for individuals with special needs within the Office of Homelessness and Housing solutions and appropriate funds to support these purposes and the positions that will be needed to carry out this measure.

PSD has previously stated this measure will address several categories of persons facing various housing challenges statewide. Individuals transitioning from incarceration experience additional barriers, including mental health issues, which compound their difficulties to avoid homelessness and securing appropriate, affordable, and safe housing. This lack of access adds to the population who remain incarcerated past their minimum sentences and makes their transition back into the community that much more difficult. PSD is committed to working closely with the Governor's statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions and the other entities, including the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) on the initiatives proposed in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 1551, SD 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

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

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
S.B. 1551 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

HHFDC agrees that supportive housing is an innovative solution to house special needs populations, which includes the chronically homeless, individuals with disabilities, transitioning from incarceration, and those suffering from substance abuse.

HHFDC **supports** S.B. 1551 SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (the Office) and facilitates coordination and cooperation among state housing agencies to assist the Office with implementation. The pilot program contemplates the development of rental housing project(s) in which some or all of the units are targeted to special needs households who require supportive services and have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI).

This measure covers the basic components that are critical for a PSH project to be successful – a onetime appropriation for the development and construction of the PSH project and funding streams to cover the other annual costs associated with this type of facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature
2023 Regular Session**

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference

by:

Brandon M. Kimura
Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1551, S.D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing.

Purpose: Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

Judiciary’s Position:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

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

**TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

February 28, 2023, 10:00 am

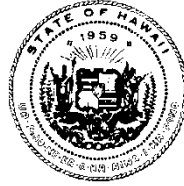
**SENATE BILL 1551 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1551 SD1, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program for individuals and families with special needs within the statewide Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this bill and submitted comments on the proposed procurement exemption in the original version of this bill. Since that exemption language is not in the SD 1 version, the SPO has no further concerns with this bill.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 28, 2023
10:00 AM – Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 1551, SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 1551, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 1551, SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

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

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its testimony regarding SB 1551, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 28, 2023

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

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB1551 SD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB1551 SD1**, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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

The support systems included in this pilot program also increase long-term benefits for populations in need of housing. Specifically, we would like to highlight the responsibility to, when possible, maximize the possibility of employment (page 5, lines 6-7). Under Hawai'i's Employment First commitment, the importance of I/DD individuals being able to work is highlighted. Finding employment can increase I/DD independence and integration into the community, benefitting both the individuals and strengthening the community as a whole.

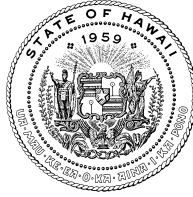
This pilot program will ensure that our community is supported with accessible decent housing, increasing their quality of life, encouraging independence, and promoting community participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB1551 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **James Koshiba**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
February 28, 2023
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211
In consideration of
Senate Bill 1551 SD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

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

I am writing in support of SB1551 SD1 and to offer comments.

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

The program proposed by this bill would provide an important complement to existing permanent supportive housing programs that reduce homelessness, such as the Housing First program, which is focused on "chronically homeless" individuals, i.e., individuals who have a diagnosed physical disability, mental illness, or addiction and who are verified as having been "homeless continuously for at least twelve months or, homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years..." (HRS §346-378).

Many individuals experiencing homelessness may not meet the definition of "chronically homeless." Others meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or the duration of their "chronicity" needed to qualify. In addition, anyone who is homeless, but enters a hospital, treatment program, or jail for ninety days or more no longer qualifies as "chronically homeless," even if they still have no housing upon discharge and are therefore returned to the street. Supportive housing not limited to "chronically homeless" individuals, as proposed in this bill, can help fill these gaps.

With regard to Section 2.(c) and the development of supportive housing projects, I defer to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation. I applaud the targeting of households at or below thirty per cent of area median income, as those experiencing homelessness typically fall within this income range.

With regard to Section 2.(d) and the creation of a project-based rent supplement program, I defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

With regard to Section 2.(e), I defer to the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division on the feasibility and scalability of utilizing Medicaid funds to match state funds for supportive services.

February 27, 2023
Page Two of Two

If the intent of this bill is to create housing for homeless individuals in an expeditious manner, I would recommend adding the following language to Section 2.(e):

“The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions **shall be exempt from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes** and may enter into memoranda of agreement with the counties or specialized nonprofit organizations as necessary to implement this section. The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions may, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the supportive housing program.”

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba
Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness



SB1551 SD1 Supportive Housing Pilot Project

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

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

Tuesday, Feb 28, 2023 10:00: Room 211

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1551 SD1:

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

Connection, support, sobriety, employment, and quality of life—these are all significant outcomes for people in recovery. A wide range of housing options are needed because recovery is unique to each person.

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

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

A wide range of housing options are needed because recovery is unique to each person.

SH as elements similar to treatment in that they involve peer support and other addiction recovery aids.¹ It’s important to have various housing options for people because recovery is unique to each person. **Supportive Housing (SH) is community-based housing targeted to low-income households with that combines housing with case management and wraparound care.**

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

SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery²

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

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

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

Study after study has shown that supportive housing not only resolves homelessness and increases housing stability, but also improves health and lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly-funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons. The SH model has been demonstrated to permanently keep the majority of persons who enter the program from ever becoming homeless again. A primary goal to address those significant challenges to help people avoid future episodes of homelessness. It's a higher level than a shelter that often limits the hours when a person can be onsite resulting homeless individuals wandering through the neighborhood during the day.

Core Components

Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community. There is no single model for supportive housing's design. There are three approaches to operating and providing supportive housing:⁴

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

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

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

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

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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1551 SD1: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Tuesday, 2/28/23; 10:00 AM; CR 211 & Videoconference**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support of SB 1551 SD1**, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. 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.

This is a key bill for planning future housing and services to vulnerable populations in our state. Supportive housing is a growing need not only to address homelessness but also for many other populations, such as the growing number of elderly, developmentally disabled and others who need housing and coordinated services. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in costly institutional care and other high public costs.

We support the flexibility provided by SD1 for the rent supplement payments to make the rents affordable to extremely low-income people who are often the most in need. The rental subsidies and services provided for in this bill, along with construction funds for affordable rentals are the 3 key elements for success. Another key element of this bill is establishing the Supportive Housing Pilot Program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The SOHHS can provide the collaboration needed to take this big step forward. Strong leadership is needed with the many state, county and community agencies, as well as developers, to create successful models. Developing successful models through this pilot program will benefit not only houseless individuals but other vulnerable populations who need this types of affordable housing with ongoing services.

The price tag may seem big, but studies have shown that supportive housing generates significant cost savings in public systems. Emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, prisons, and our streets are overwhelmed. By working to end homelessness, great savings can be achieved.

This bill would provide the infrastructure and coordination which is essential for success. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org or (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.





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

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Conference Room 211
10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

RE: Support for S.B. 1551, SD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

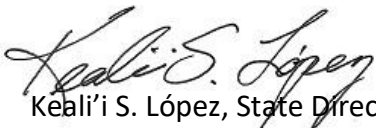
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the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

AARP supports S.B. 1551, SD1 which establishes a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs.

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

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **S.B. 1551, SD1**.

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López, State Director



LATE

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 27, 2023

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

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 1551: Relating to Supportive Housing
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, 10 a.m., Room 211 & Videoconference

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

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 1551, SD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions; appropriates funds and establishes positions.

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

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

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

Please pass SB1551, SD1, and invest in the affordable, pet-friendly supportive housing that our community so desperately needs. Mahalo for your consideration.



HAWAI'I STATE
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

LATE

February 28, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Sen. Henry J.C. Aquino

Sen. Lynn DeCoite

Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye

Sen. Dru Mamo Kanuha

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Sen. Chris Lee

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki

Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

Sen. Glenn Wakai

Sen. Kurt Fevella

Re: SB1551 SD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

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

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

On behalf of HSCADV and our 28 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in **support of SB1551 SD1**. This measure would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. This is a key bill for planning future housing and services for vulnerable populations in our state.

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

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

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

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

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

SB-1551-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 8:53:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am in **STRONG** support of SB1551 SD1. We need this pilot project now more than ever, and I know that we will continue to need supportive housing programs desperately in the years to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1551-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 4:22:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Supportive housing is an innovative and proven solution to some of the nation's toughest community problems. It combines affordable housing with access to services to help special needs populations, such as Chronic homeless individuals and families; individuals with intellectual, developmental, physical or severe mental disabilities; individuals transitioning from incarceration; emancipated foster youth; individuals with an alcohol or drug addiction; and frail elderly individuals, live more stable and productive lives.

According to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a nonprofit organization that has impacted over 200,000 individuals in more than 300 cities across 48 states and the United States Virgin Islands, supportive housing generates significant cost savings to public systems. Cost studies in six different states and cities found that supportive housing results in tenants' decreased use of shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails and prisons.

One case study found that an 85-unit supportive housing facility in Charlotte, North Carolina, which serves individuals with extensive histories of homelessness and a disabling condition (mental health and substance abuse disorders, chronic health disorders, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities), effectively ended homelessness for 81% of its tenants.

This significant housing stability rate is consistent with other permanent supportive housing models across the country. Moreover, there were significant reductions to emergency room visits (81%), hospital stays (62%), ambulance calls (76%), and for tenants involved with the criminal justice system, reductions in arrests (82%) and nights in jail (80%).

According to studies from Hawai'i Pathways Project and the City & County of Honolulu's housing first program, supportive housing has shown similar positive impacts as in other jurisdictions. Supportive housing benefits include:

1. For individuals, improved housing retention, health, and quality of life;
2. For systems, reduced burdens and costs on already stretched public systems, such as public safety and emergency medical services; and
3. For the community, decreased crime rates and increased or no impact on property values.

We should establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs. Please support this bill.

Hearing Date: February 28 at 10:00 am

RE:SB 1551 SD1

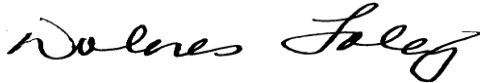
Submitted by Dolores Foley

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1551, SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Tuesday, February 28, 2023; 10:00 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and via Video Conference Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees.

Dolores Foley supports Senate Bill (SB) 1551, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program for individuals with special needs within the Office of Homelessness and Housing solutions and appropriate funds to support these purposes and the positions that will be needed to carry out this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dolores Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dolores Foley

SB-1551-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 4:24:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Ways and Means Committee members,

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

Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Hearing Date: February 28, 2023, 10:00am

Re: [SB 1551, SD1](#)- RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members. My name is Linda Dorset, a senior resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support SB1551 that will establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs.

Supportive housing may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly. There is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the need, and sustained funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and services for clients served by the pilot program. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in costly institutional care and other high public costs.

Linda Dorset
Wailuku

February 26, 2023

To:

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

RE: **SB1551 SD1 - Relating to Supportive Housing**

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023
Conference Room 211, 10:00AM

Most Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I support SB 1551 SD1 relating to Supportive Housing – a proven initiative that needs appropriate funding for the State of Hawaii to help provide and support the ‘housing first’ programs that have been so successful in other communities in the U.S. Hawaii’s homeless and low-income individuals and families need secure and safe housing for their most basic needs as well as accompanying services for mental, social and sustainable living. This bill expands the criteria of those needing housing to include citizens with developmental, physical and mental disabilities as well as Individuals in transition due to release from incarceration, maxing out their age as a foster-care youth and frail kupuna -- all segments of Hawaii’s population who have unmet needs in supportive housing.

Supplemental rent payments to rental housing owners and the ability to access supportive services opens up real possibilities to make a positive change in solving homelessness in Hawaii... allowing many individuals to be able to learn skills and become productive members of our society.

I ask you to support SB1551 SD1– knowing with the appropriate guidelines and standards for the use of the funds – this will be a program that can be measured and show early promise...as well as be promoted to other cities in the nation.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to submit my support for this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2023, Conference Room 211, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
RE: Support for SB 1551, SB1 relating to Supportive Housing

I testify today in **Support of SB 1551, SD1** relating to Supportive Housing.

As we continue to address the challenge of homelessness in our state, it is evident that there is no single solution. A comprehensive, compassionate approach is our only hope of coming close to resolving this crisis too many of our fellow citizens face. This bill meets both of those requirements.

By providing both financial and healthcare assistance, our likelihood of success is within reach. Giving our neighbors some relief of these challenges gives them the best opportunity to move out of their particular predicament and pursue a life many of us take for granted.

While there is no one-size-fits-all answer to this crisis, your **Support of SB 1551, SD1** will provide one more tool to address it.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Johnson

The Honorable Chair San Buenaventura

Chair Chang

Committee Members

SB 1551 S.D 1 : Relating to Supportive Housing

Hearing Date : Tuesday - February 28, 2023

Time and Place : 10:00 AM, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

I, Jenivy Teruo, support the intent of SB 1551 S.D 1.

My name is Jenivy Teruo, I am a student at UH Manoa for the Myron B Thompson School of Social Work and I am testifying in favor of SB 1551 SD1. I am a Micronesian young adult who experienced homelessness at a very young age therefore I strongly support the idea of supportive housing. As a social work student I have learned many things about serving our community and providing the necessary help to a diverse group of people. Growing up in Oahu, I have witnessed the melting pot of our community and the struggle that it comes with.

This bill will strongly help homeless individuals and families transition easily into a safe place of their own. It is stated that studies in six different states and cities find that supportive housing results in tenants' decreased use of shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails and prisons.

As a previous intern student for the legislative office for homelessness and an individual who spent a lot of time working at the HONU shelters, I have witnessed firsthand the different types of homeless individuals we have.

Many of our homeless individuals are with special needs, retired veterans, or of old age, these are the individuals who are usually going in and out of the hospital which causes them to lose their placement at a shelter. Families also make up our homeless population and these families struggle living at a shelter or transitional shelter with kids trying to manage their lives going from the shelter to their jobs or schools. Therefore, I strongly support this bill because having supportive housing will help out so many of our homeless people and it will also keep our communities safe.

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

Jenivy Teruo

UH Manoa Student : Masters of Social Work

Contact information : terujen@hawaii.edu

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February 28, 2023

TO: Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Carl Takamura

Testimony in Support of S. B. 1551, Relating to Supportive Housing

My name is Carl Takamura and I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for S.B. 1551, which would establish a pilot supportive housing program.

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

A working group formed by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and composed of a broad cross section of our community, including advocates for the homeless and underserved populations, have made supportive housing recommendations, many of which are contained in S.B. 1551 and its companion measure, H.B. 1397. They did this because their research and experience have shown that providing housing for vulnerable individuals while assisting them to meet their mental, physical and other challenges is an effective homeless prevention strategy.

I urge your support for this important measure.

Mahalo,

Carl Takamura