



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Rep. Lisa Marten
Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti
Chair, House Committee on Health and Homelessness

FROM: Angie Knight, Community Relations Manager
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

RE: HB2309 - RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

POSITION: IHS supports the passing of HB2309 with amendments.

The Institute for Human Services, IHS' 'Imi Ola Piha Homeless Triage Center is the State's only community-based medicated assisted detox center for homeless individuals; moreover, it also is the only ADAD (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division) accredited community-based detox center in the the State of Hawai'i. While other programs are equipped to offer social detox services or outpatient detox treatment, 'Imi Ola Piha is stand-alone in its services for 24-hour medical support for withdrawal management and wraparound care.

Vital to the success of our substance use detox and/or mental health treatment continuum of services, we connect individuals graduating from 'Imi Ola Piha with appropriate supportive services, whether that be through residential substance abuse treatment, transitional housing with intensive outpatient treatment, or at one of our shelters with intensive outpatient treatment. Until a residential bed may be accessed.

IHS supports the intent of this bill in establishing funding for existing and much-needed additional HTC sites. However, due to the clinical nature and critical function of establishing stability for those motivated for life-changing intervention, we suggest that the Homeless Triage Center's management fall under the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division or the DHS BESSD's Homeless Programs Office because it Homeless Triage Centers are targeted to serve homeless individuals or those at risk for homelessness and is eligible to bill Medicaid for some of the services offered. Often, a client's motivation to begin detox or get mental health stabilization is fickle and fleeting. By having HTC funded and monitored by the DoH, HTCs would be more appropriately funded to provide these services in the long term. Since welcoming our first client on June 5, 2023, 'Imi Ola Piha has had 99 successful detox and psych stabilizations out of 127 exits after admission, a 78% success rate.

The need is great; currently, IHS is the only site able to provide this often life-saving service. The demand for an HTC extends beyond Honolulu City & County. This week welcomed two clients from Hawai'i County, who arrived via plane tickets purchased by loved ones and treatment centers who are queued to take them in once they graduate from 'Imi Ola Piha's stabilization program. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2309: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: **THURSDAY, 2/8/24; 9:30 am; CR 329 or via videoconference**

LATE

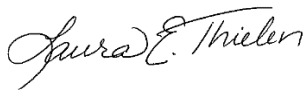
Chair Martin and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
Chair Au Belatti and Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB2309: Relating to Homelessness** which shall establish a triage center program for homeless individuals and appropriates funds for the implementation of the triage center program. Partners In Care (PIC) is a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers, individuals with lived experience and concerned community members across O'ahu.

Services including detox and mental health care are severely lacking throughout the state and the establishment of this triage center will fill a gap in available services. While we strongly support this measure, we would encourage more centers and programs like the one being piloted by IHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments in support of HB 2309. Please do not hesitate to reach out to PIC for any additional information.

Mahalo,



Laura E. Thielen
Executive Director
Partners In Care – O'ahu Continuum of Care

HB-2309

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:49:51 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2309.

LATE

HB-2309

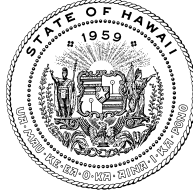
Submitted on: 2/7/2024 2:52:05 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Greg Misakian and I support HB2309.



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **John Mizuno**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
House Committee's on Human Services/ Health and Homelessness
February 8, 2024
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Bill No. 2309
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Aloha Chair Marten, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Amato, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB2309 which will establish a Homeless Triage Center program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS).

This measure will **create more space for individuals with mental or behavioral health needs**, which is a priority for the SOHHS and the Green administration. Homeless individuals suffering from behavioral health conditions are often repeatedly entering hospitals and into the criminal justice system. Expanding both clinical and community-based facilities for behavioral and mental health healing will save the state's dollars and will allow for emergency departments and law enforcement officers to direct resources to other priorities in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for this measure.

Mahalo,

John Mizuno
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness