

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 Committees on Housing & Health and Human Services**  
February 7, 2023  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 1551**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB1551 and offer comments on some provisions of the bill.

This bill is aligned with the Governor's priorities on homelessness, which include an emphasis on supportive housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness. The bill can help address the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness, but who may not meet the legal definition of "chronically homeless." That legal definition only includes 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; provided that the combined occasions equal at least twelve months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least seven consecutive nights of not living in places as described in subparagraph" (HRS §346-378 Housing first programs).

Some individuals experiencing homelessness struggle to qualify for housing or programs targeting the "chronically homeless" because they do not meet the legal definition. Others may meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or 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 with a broader focus than only "chronic homelessness" 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.

With regard to Section 2.(d) and the creation of a project-based rent supplement program, I defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. However, I would suggest that the Committees consider not pegging rent supplements to a specific amount, as the needs of the target population may change along with the costs of project financing and operations. A more flexible approach might be to amend the language in

Recipient Name  
February 6, 2023  
Page Two of Two

Section 2.(d) to read: “...shall implement project-based rent supplement payments ~~of approximately \$500 a month,~~ at levels sufficient to fill the gap between the flat rents needed to cover project financing, operating, maintenance, or other costs, and an amount that targeted residents can afford...”

Finally, given that the bill requires a great deal of planning and inter-agency coordination, I would request lengthening the effective dates related to implementation, including amending Section 2.(g) to require an interim report to the legislature by December 1, 2024 instead of 2023, and a final report by December 1, 2025 instead of 2024.

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba  
Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness



**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 7, 2023

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing  
and  
The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Chang, Senator San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SB1551 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB1551**, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

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

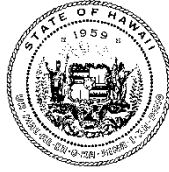
The support systems included in this pilot program also increase long-term benefits for populations in need of housing. Specifically, we would like to highlight the responsibility to, when possible, maximize the possibility of employment (page 5, lines 8-9). Under Hawai'i's Employment First commitment, the importance of I/DD individuals being able to work is a priority for our state. 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**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



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

P.O. Box 119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
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email: [state\\_procurement\\_office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
HOUSING  
AND  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
February 7, 2023, 2:00 PM

SENATE BILL 1551  
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Kanuha, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1551.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill, however, objects to the procurement exemption for the selection of a qualified nonprofit organization. The SPO recommends that the exemption language noted below be removed.

Page 4, line 20, through page 5, line 2:

The Hawaii public housing authority ~~shall be exempt~~  
~~from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in~~  
~~selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to~~  
~~administer the rent supplement payments and may,~~  
without regard to chapter 9a, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
establish rules and qualification standards for  
participants of the supportive housing program.

Page 5, lines 16 through 19:

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

Exemptions to the procurement code have always been a concern of the SPO. As stated in the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) white paper on “Ethics and Accountability,” “Maintaining the integrity of public procurement is one of the most important pillars of government.”

The bill does not cite a justification why the selection of a qualified nonprofit organization needs to be exempt from Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 103D, “Hawaii Public Procurement Code” (Code). The SPO recommends that the bill include compelling reasons for this exemption, otherwise, the agency should adhere to the Code. Chapter 103D, HRS, is the State's single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both Chapter 103D and 103F, HRS, conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

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

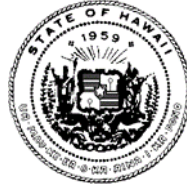
The National Association of State Procurement Officials states that “Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments.”

When public bodies are removed from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.

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

February 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1551 – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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

**PURPOSE:** The bill's purpose is to establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The bill appropriates funds and establishes positions.

The Department agrees that there is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the need. Additionally, there is a critical need for rental subsidies and supportive services to support

households with acute needs to maintain housing over time. While a one-time appropriation can support upfront housing construction, sustained ongoing funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and supportive services for clients served by the pilot program.

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

DHS notes the difference between supportive housing, as described in this measure, and the Housing First program, the permanent supportive housing (PSH) program currently administered by the Homeless Programs Office (HPO). The Housing First program specifically serves "chronically homeless" individuals and families as required by section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The State's Housing First program is very successful, with a retention rate of 94%, reflecting the percentage of participating chronically homeless individuals and families who remained in their permanent housing placement with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

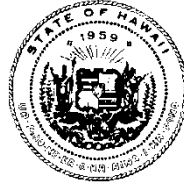
In addition, as drafted, this measure intends to serve "individuals with special needs," a broader population than the State's Housing First program that serves "chronically homeless" individuals and families. The measure contemplates a supportive housing strategy that combines housing and supportive services for a wide range of households with acute needs and is not limited to those experiencing homelessness. For example, supportive housing may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly.

Therefore, developing a broader supportive housing program to serve individuals with special needs may require resources and additional time to plan amongst agencies, communities, and stakeholders; consequently, DHS suggests an extended effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments 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 HOUSING**  
&  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023**  
**2:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 1551**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Honorable Chair Chang and Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 881, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 1551, 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. While not a homeless agency, 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. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

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**

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

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**  
**AND**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

February 07, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of  
**S.B. 1551**  
**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.

The Governor's new coordinator on homelessness has the knowledge and experience to lead this worthwhile effort and we would like to **support S.B. 1551**, 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. This measure covers the basic components that are critical for a PSH project to be successful – a one-time appropriation for the development and construction of the PSH project and funding streams to cover the other costs associated with this type of facility.

To assist in the development of the pilot project(s), this bill appropriates \$50 million in general funds to HHFDC's Rental Housing Revolving Fund, \$14 million in general funds to help cover anticipated operating and maintenance costs, and \$10.5 million to cover the

necessary on-site supportive programs to be offered, such as mental health, substance abuse, and counseling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1151

TO: Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, & Housing Committee Members  
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, & HHS Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 7, 2023 (2:00 PM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 1151, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

As noted in the bills findings, supportive housing “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.” Supportive housing also results in significant reductions to emergency room visits, hospital stays, ambulance calls, and for tenants with criminal legal system involvement reductions in arrests and night in jail.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore.

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 who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions. Many of our clients and participants have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:06:45 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chanel Wahinepio	Testifying for Kelii Foundation	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. My son has Autism and needs 24-hour supervision. Our family makes daily sacrifices to take care of him, so that he does not end up institutionalized. This bill would help our family in so many ways, so that we can concentrate on his care.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

**TO:** Senate Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services  
**FROM:** Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing:** **Tuesday, 2/7/23; 2:00 PM; CR 225 & Videoconference**

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura and Members, Committees on Housing, and Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support of SB 1551**, 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.

This is a comprehensive bill that addresses one of our state's toughest community problems—homelessness. Chronically houseless persons need more than housing to successfully move off the streets. 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! They can take the lead with the many state, county and community agencies, as well as developers, needed to build 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 in the SOHHS which is essential for success. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) or (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808)373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)



**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:22:27 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Carney	Testifying for Affordable Housing Connections LLC dba AHC Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AHC Hawaii is in strong support of SB1551, a bill long overdue, to get Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) kickstarted in the Islands. PSH supports those in the most need of housing and supportive services. Developing PSH requires the following:

1. Free Land - typically leased land from the State/County.
2. Financing - Low Income Tax Credits provides free equity and is typically used for PSH projects.
3. Rent Subsidy - in the form of Project Based Section 8.
4. Supportive Services - from well financed service organizations that do not depend on grants for their existence on an annual basis.

Please give SB1551 your full support.

Mahalo,

Kevin R. Carney



## **SB1551 Supportive Housing Pilot Project**

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair

Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb 7, 2023 2:00: Room 225

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1551:**

*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.

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

### **SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery<sup>2</sup>**

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.

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

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



**Supportive Housing Program (SHP) helps develop and provide housing and related supportive services for people moving from homelessness to independent, supportive living.<sup>3</sup> 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:<sup>4</sup>

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.

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

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

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:56:49 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Bartlett	Testifying for Hawaii Autism Foundation	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

Hawaii Autism Foundation stands in strong support of SB1550 which will help cover the gap in Hawaii for housing and support for our autism adults who are at severe risk of homelessness. We spend so much time in the early years in school helping them to develop life skills and many can hold jobs. However there comes a time when autistic adults lose their local families and are in what we call a gap group. Gap groups have no services. They might not be severe and low functioning enough to be in the DD Waiver services, but they also cannot safely manage their housing. They can not manage public housing without support. For example, many can easily be targeted by predators and preyed upon by others without a support to turn to that will protect them.

Mahalo,

Cynthia Bartlett, Executive Director

Hawaii Autism Foundation



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

**TO:** Honorable Sen. Stanley Chang  
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing  
  
Honorable Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**FROM:** Connie Mitchell, Executive Director  
IHS, Institute for Human Services, Inc.

**RE:** [SB1551](#) – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**HEARING:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 2:00 PM

**POSITION:** IHS supports the passing of SB1551

The transition from living unhoused to housed comes with a steep learning curve for many, this is especially true for our chronically homeless neighbors. Supportive Housing provides wrap-around support during the housing transition period and thereafter, providing individuals connections to stabilizing programs and/or supportive rehabilitation services that promote independent living and building a new network of support in the community.

The Institute for Human Services (IHS) delivers these services daily through our City-funded Housing First, HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing and Community Care Services (CCS) programs, helping individuals and families learn to live in their apartments and in new communities. Supportive services look different per client but can include: ongoing case management, employment support, navigating mental and physical health care systems to access and sustain treatment, financial literacy, nutrition, and interpersonal skill training.

Housing provides a critical component for ending homelessness. However, support is still needed to help tenants create habits that promote continued housing stability. Recognizing the benefits of supportive housing, IHS strongly supports the continued focus on permanent supportive housing solutions. Without it, many of our most vulnerable households would be unable to break the cycle that persists even when given the opportunity to be housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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

**The State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Housing  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
Conference Room 225, 2:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair  
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
RE: Support for S.B. 1551 Relating to Supportive Housing

Aloha Co-Chairs Chang and San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:

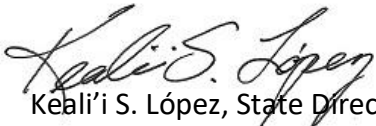
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the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

**AARP supports S.B. 1551** 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**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López, State Director



## Keiki Education Living Independent Institute



Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Hearing,

We are in **STRONG SUPPORT** for **BILL SB1551**.

My Name is Melodee Haole, I am the Founder, President of the K.E.L.I.I. Foundation. I am not only an advocate but I am a mother of a 29 year old SEVERE AUTISTIC son. I personally understand the struggles of our special needs, Developmental, and Intellectual disabilities families. **Our community has been struggling for years in the lack of the right support for our community.** During COVID I had to help a few young adults that fell through the **GAP** of the **TRANSITION** between DOH, DOE, DDD, SSI, these young adults had no guidance or help during transitioning from DOE to adulthood and some ended up homeless, im bringing two people to testify to tell their story.

There is one young adult in particular that I wanted to point out his story. He was in the foster care and special ED system his whole life, he didn't have the right support parent or advocate to maneuver the difficulties of all these agencies working together especially during the transition to adulthood. Because of this he had **NO Developmental disabilities services, No job training help, No medical, and ended up HOMELESS, self medicating, people on the streets manipulated him to steal, he started selling drugs, he got into heavy drugs, and ended up in prison.** Because of his Developmental and intellectual disabilities, he really couldn't process what was happening, he just felt these people on the street were his family and friends. His younger sister found him and tried to help him but he started to get depressed and missed his friends on the streets. In 2020 the beginning of COVID he didn't understand and was frustrated, he **tried to commit suicide and jump out of his sister car when they were on the freeway, a few cars ran over him,** miraculously he survived and is here to tell his story.

Now he has a limp and has more difficulties with processing life skills. After the hospital he felt he wanted to live on his own because he didn't want to be a burden and got into a sober, clean house. He got some financial help but people started stealing from him, so he asked to move in with his sister. But with living with his sister he only has medical insurance from Quest but got **DENIED** for SSI, DHS, DDD services.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.  
Melodee Haole

**Keiki Education Living Independent Institute**  
501(c)3 Tax ID #45-5524466  
91-215 Hiluhilu Place • Kapolei, HI 96707 • 808-927-5909  
keliifoundation@live.com • <http://www.keliifoundation.org/>

**LATE**

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:44:15 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Alice	Testifying for HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	In Person

Comments:

HOPE Services Hawai'i strongly supports this bill.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1551

*Hawaii Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair, Committee on Housing*  
*Hawaii Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services*  
*Members of the Senate Committee on Housing*  
*Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services*

Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation is a Hawaii nonprofit organization with a 43-year history of developing and operating affordable housing for very low to moderate income families, seniors and persons with special needs. It has been our experience that developing and operating permanent supportive housing especially for those earning 30% of AMI and below is extremely difficult to achieve without government subsidy and support.

We strongly support SB1551 as it not only provides targeted development funds but delivers long term rental assistance and supportive service funding that are historically even harder to locate and secure. SB1551 will enable the creation of a variety of permanent housing solutions for a diverse and historically underserved population. We ask for your continued support of SB1551.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Audrey E. Awaya  
Executive Director

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



TOMMY JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

William F. Oku  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1551  
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Housing  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair,  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 7, 2023; 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and via Video Conference

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Kanuha, Vice Chair Aquino, and  
Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 1551, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs within the Office of Homelessness and housing solutions, and appropriates funds for these purposes, including establishing positions needed to carry out the purpose of this measure.

This measure addresses several categories of persons with various housing challenges statewide and is innovative in its approach to this long-standing serious problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1551.



**LATE**

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:15:57 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sue Berk	Testifying for Fuller Lives Disability Housing Advocacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For much of 2022 I participated in the Supported Housing Workgroup facilitated by the Governor's Office of Homelessness and Housing. In 2017, with other parents I co-founded Fuller Lives a group advocating for more housing options for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Hawaii has thousands of special needs adults still living with their aging parents. For example, my son is 37 and we are in our 70's. Health issues starting for one of us. A close friend is 85, single in poor health and her son is 46. Please approve this bill as it can set the stage for making available more options for these individuals. When their parents become too frail to care for them or pass away, they need a safe, appropriate place to live. There is a lack of appropriate housing for them at this time. And the transition to a new, appropriate place to live needs to be done before an emergency situation exists in the home.

Thank You

Sue Berk

President, Fuller Lives

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:33:54 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of 1551. The needs for equitable Housing programs must be more accessible

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:31:38 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexandra Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Survivors need support when they need housing due to their abusive relationship

## **TESTIMONY OF ELLEN GODBEY CARSON IN SUPPORT OF SB 1551**

### **I write in strong support of SB 1551**

While I write as an individual, I have served as president of the the Institute for Human Services (IHS) and Hale Kipa Youth Services.

This bill will go far in creating development of permanent supportive housing. This is such a critical need in our community. We cannot hope to make progress on re-housing persons experiencing mental illness, drug addiction, rehab following medical procedures or prison. Supportive services can help end the revolving door of homelessness, emergency rooms, police and living on the streets. This is a much more humane and productive approach, and should save lives and funds in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and helping protect the welfare of our residents.

Ellen Godbey Carson  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:21:42 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of SB1551.

February 5, 2023

To:

Committee on Housing  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dre Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

And

Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair

**RE: SB 1551 Relating to Supportive Housing**

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023  
Conference Room 225, 2:00 pm

Most Honorable Chairs and Vice-Chairs:

**I support SB 1551 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.

Supplemental rent payments and the ability to access supportive services opens up real possibilities in the lives of homeless and low-income individuals to be able to learn and become productive members of our society.

**I ask you to support SB1551** – 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

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:53:21 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Faith Joyner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:42:54 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT both SB 1551 and HB 1397 as these comprehensive bills will serve a deserving community in need, and will demonstrate a big step forward in the development of permanent supportive housing.



**SB-1551**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:13:43 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arjuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB1551. To properly and productively address our homeless crisis it is necessary to make bold investments in supportive housing. Supportive housing can improve quality of life, stability, and reduce mental/physical/social barriers for individuals experiencing homelessness as well as reduce crime and help to keep individuals from street sleeping.

## **Testimony in support of S.B. 1551, Relating to Supported Housing**

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Hawaii Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair, Committee on Housing  
Hawaii Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services  
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

My name is Sandra Oshiro and I coordinate the Hawaii Young Adults in Transition support group for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

I am submitting written testimony in support of S.B. 1551, which creates a pilot program to support and serve populations who are homeless or in danger of homelessness in the state. Among these individuals are those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including those with autism spectrum disorders. ASD is a growing health issue with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that it affects 1 in every 44 children.

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

For a good part of 2022, a broad-based work group brought together by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and representing advocates for the homeless, veterans, those with substance dependencies, and a host of other marginalized populations met regularly to come up with supported housing recommendations for the Legislature's consideration. S.B. 1551 and its House companion measure, H.B. 1397, reflect many of these recommendations.

Supported housing has been shown to effectively shelter vulnerable individuals while helping them address physical, mental and other life challenges that can otherwise send them back to the streets and/or prevent them from becoming housed.

Hawaii has long been trapped in a housing crisis that seems to defy government effort, with those at or below 30 percent of the area median income particularly unserved. S.B. 1551's comprehensive approach, including project-based rent supplements, significant rental housing revolving funds, resources for support services, and needed data collection, represents a major step in addressing what Gov. Josh Green has rightly declared a housing emergency.

With passage of bills like S.B. 1551, we can make measurable progress in ensuring affordable, equitable housing for those who most in need. Thank you for your support of S.B. 1551.

Sincerely,  
*Sandra Oshiro*  
Sandra Oshiro  
ssoshiro@gmail.com