



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

JUN YANG
GOVERNOR'S HOMELESS COORDINATOR
STATEWIDE OFFICE ON
HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING SOLUTIONS

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Friday, April 11, 2025

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

COMMENTS on

HCR 180 HD1 - REQUESTING THE STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, HOMELESS COORDINATORS OF EACH COUNTY, COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII.

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members:

The Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) would like to provide comments on HCR 180 HD1.

The purpose of HCR 180 HD1 is to request the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions, the Department of Law Enforcement, the homeless coordinators of the counties of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, county law enforcement, and social services providers to work collaboratively and effectively as vital stakeholders to address homelessness in Hawaii.

Our office's priorities focus on expanding the deeply affordable housing inventory for individuals experiencing homelessness as well as affordable rental units for individuals, couples, and families who are at risk of homelessness due to the high costs of living in Hawaii. In large part, we can do this through the Kauhale Initiative, which is a statewide partnership between the State, Counties, service providers, and the community to create deeply affordable spaces for housing and healing our people. The Kauhale Initiative is a unique and innovative approach that strives to demonstrate a new, cost-effective model that centers housing as a critical component of healthcare. Residents of Kauhale are provided with access to robust, wrap-around services, including case management and medical care, to build healthy and resilient communities that help people stay successfully housed long-term.

SOHHS, the State, and the Counties continue to have a robust dialogue and are actively working together as partners to develop innovative programs to shelter and house individuals

Jun Yang Comments on HCR 180 HD1

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

April 11, 2025

Page 2

experiencing homelessness. The Ohana Zones program currently funds shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing projects for people exiting homelessness in partnership with all four major counties. Notably, the Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered people (HONU), a partnership between the State and the City & County of Honolulu, and the Honolulu Police Department, provides 24/7 short-term shelter services and navigation to connect individuals and families on Oahu to longer-term shelter and other housing options, as well as providing a tool for law enforcement officers to divert homeless individuals from citation and arrest. There are ongoing partnerships involving all major stakeholders in addressing and preventing homelessness in our state.

We support the intent of this resolution to collaborate among all these vital stakeholders to effectively address this multifaceted issue and are committed to playing our part in the solution. As the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, I am honored to further the important work of this office and the administration to reduce and prevent homelessness across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HCR-180-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:36:27 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.