

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1195 H.D. 1 S.D. 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 30, 2017

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to
3 appropriate additional funding in support of key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness
4 which are led by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (Coordinator). The DOH
5 continues to follow the lead of the Coordinator to ensure that efforts are synchronized in support
6 of the State's comprehensive framework to address homelessness across the system of care. The
7 framework includes focus of efforts on three primary leverage points – affordable housing,
8 health and human services, and public safety. This measure contains appropriations aimed at
9 resourcing activities to conduct outreach to chronically homeless individuals and families with
10 substance abuse and mental health issues which align with plans developed between the DOH
11 and the Coordinator. The DOH recognizes that additional resources may be necessary to expand
12 services especially to target groups like homeless persons with addiction to drugs or alcohol and
13 individuals with severe mental illness. The DOH asks the Legislature's support of the
14 Governor's Executive Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes appropriations to the
15 DOH for outreach services to homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness, and
16 outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons experiencing
17 substance abuse. The DOH requests that any appropriations resulting from this bill do not
18 supplant or replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Committees: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in **Support** of H.B. 1195, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 1195, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which appropriates funds for homeless outreach services. Homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youth are among our most vulnerable populations. This measure will fund multi-faceted outreach efforts to these populations, including efforts to address the specific needs of newly homeless youth, many of whom are running away from home, and who often do not know where to turn for support. Additionally, Section 3 of the bill appropriates funding for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (“LEAD”) program. The LEAD program is an opportunity to foster trust between police officers and members of the public, especially those experiencing homelessness. An evaluation of the Seattle LEAD program has shown that the program can reduce rates of re-arrest, encourage people struggling with addiction to enter into treatment, and help formerly homeless individuals into shelter.

For these reasons, the ACLU urges the Committees to support H.B. 1195, H.D.1, S.D. 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mandy Finlay
Advocacy Coordinator
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1195, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair, Judiciary and Labor; Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means; and Committee Members
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Thursday, March 30, 2017; 9:50 AM; CR 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1195 SD1, making appropriations for multiple initiatives to provide comprehensive outreach and rental subsidies to move homeless people into permanent housing and divert them from the criminal justice system. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Hawaii is #1 in the nation for the number of homeless per capita. More people are falling through the cracks in Hawaii. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc. Neighbor Island as well as Oahu providers are struggling to reach out to the increasing number of unsheltered homeless. Outreach is the first step to moving people into permanent housing. We need targeted outreach to the mentally ill, substance abusers, and street kids. We also need civil legal services to help people resolve roadblocks to obtaining housing.

We need **Youth Outreach** to identify and help the often hidden homeless youth. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii are for running away—averaging **4,493 per year!** These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. We must address this tragedy of children living alone on our streets.

We also need to divert the homeless from the criminal justice system to services. A pilot **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion project (LEAD)** can build on other successful programs which found that 60% of people in LEAD were less likely than people in a control group to be arrested. 82% were homeless and 40% became housed. According to the Honolulu Police Department, **43% of detainees** in HPD's central cell block last year were homeless. LEAD would lead the homeless to programs vs. to jail.

We support **Ongoing Rent Subsidies**. Almost 20% of homeless families are working but still cannot afford Hawaii rents. Seniors and other homeless with stable incomes are priced out of the housing market. They need ongoing rental subsidies to close the gap to pay rent and become self-sustaining. This subsidy could rapidly get them housed with minimal other services.

We strongly urge your support for this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017

9:50 am

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 1195 SD1 - HELPING OUR STRUGGLING PEOPLE

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the almost 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 1195 SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services and rental subsidies to reduce and prevent homelessness.

According to the Honolulu Police Department¹, of the 16,000 arrests made on Oahu in 2016, 61% involved people who were severely mentally ill or abusing drugs and 43% of detainees in HPD's central cell block last year were homeless. Of those, 72% had a serious mental illness or substance abuse problem.

¹ Ige: Keep Minor Offenders Out Of Jail And Off The Streets, By [Anita Hofschneider](#), January 23, 2017.
<http://www.civilbeat.org/2017/01/ige-keep-minor-offenders-out-of-jail-and-off-the-streets/>

As of November 30, 2016, 51% of the people imprisoned at OCCC are pre-trial detainees costing the state more than **\$2 million a month**. 43% of the individuals held in the police cell block are houseless.

Why are we using jails and prisons to hide away our social challenges? These correctional institutions are not equipped to address these public health issues.

Incarceration is the most expensive sanction. Providing appropriate services to those struggling in our community is the smart way – the compassionate and humane way – to address our social challenges. Once someone gets entangled in the criminal justice web, the system makes it virtually impossible to move forward after one pays his/her debt to society.

The police are frustrated because they see the same people day after day who are accumulating parking tickets and other violations pushing them further down the debt spiral. The community is frustrated because they only see the number of people living unsheltered growing with no end in sight as Honolulu builds fancy condominiums for people from somewhere else.

This frustration spurred the community to work together to find better solutions. The LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program from Seattle was a great model to study. A community of service providers, organizations, agencies, and policymakers, convened by Heather Lusk, Executive Director of the CHOW project, have been meeting since June 2016 to build the infrastructure that is vital for the success of the LEAD program in Hawai'i. The LEAD Hawai'i Hui has a wide net that is pulling all sorts of unlikely allies together to work collaboratively to address the pressing social issues that affect everyone in our community.

As a member of the LEAD Hawai'i Hui, Community Alliance on Prisons has been heartened to witness our really amazing and diverse community step up to serve some of our most vulnerable people. The LEAD Hawai'i Hui has put real thought and planning into what is most needed and how to best serve our people.

LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) started in Seattle in 2011. In that city, police officers who arrest people for low-level drug offenses or sex work give them the option of receiving social services through LEAD rather than getting booked into jail. Officers can also recommend people join the program without arresting them first.

In the five years since it's been implemented, the collaboration between service providers and law enforcement has gained national recognition for its effectiveness in not only reducing arrests, drug addiction and homelessness, but also improving relationships between police and communities.

Improving relationships between community and law enforcement is vital to community health and safety and so desperately needed at this point in time.

The kind of comprehensive thinking with experts in the fields of behavioral health, housing, health care, government, associations and organizations from our community form the basis for this program we are working to establish as a pilot in Honolulu. The Hawai'i Department of Health has been on board and is excited about this project. **We implore the committee to champion the funding to start the LEAD pilot program in Honolulu.**

As the article cited reported, the National Director for LEAD, Kris Nyrop came to Honolulu and spoke at the 2017 Harm Reduction Conference "Humanize Not Criminalize" about the LEAD program in Seattle and how it is sweeping the nation. Law enforcement sees the benefits of improved community relations and the community see the benefits of building trust with law enforcement that LEAD can encourage.

The HB 1195 committee report expresses the intent of this comprehensive bill to provide funding for houseless people with serious and persistent mental illness; outreach, counselling, and diversion for houseless people experiencing substance misuse; funding for the LEAD program; funding for unsheltered families with children; funding for houseless youth; and funding for civil legal services for houseless individuals.

"LEAD works much better than the criminal justice system in reducing people's criminal behavior," said Kris Nyrop, who helped start the program in Seattle and recently visited Honolulu to advise local service providers. "Even providing a Cadillac level of services to them is cheaper than the criminal justice system."

The program started with \$400,000 in Seattle and served about 65 people, Nyrop said. Now its budget is \$2.1 million and it serves more than 400 currently, he said.

The program has also been adopted in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Albany, New York. California recently approved \$15 million for three pilot projects, and North Carolina is considering expanding its LEAD program after the state was one of the first jurisdictions to follow Seattle's lead.

Please make March 17th not only a Great Day for the Irish but a Great Day for Hawai'i as we develop and implement more compassionate and humane ways to address our social challenges.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*To care for anyone else enough to make their problems one's own,
is ever the beginning of one's real ethical development.*

Felix Adler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:25:38 AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Lichty	Drug Policy Action Group	Support	No

Comments: As one of the 24 agencies in Hawaii involved in the LEAD hui, please support this important measure to help address the issue of homelessness in Hawaii without duplicating any existing services. We hope & anticipate that this funding will be utilized using the LEAD model, proven in other venues to be uniquely helpful to persons who are homeless and have concomitant health or social problems. LEAD uses proven metrics to identify effective elements of its intensive outreach program. and their approach has proved both successful and cost effective. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: Senate Committees on Judiciary & Labor and Ways & Means
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: 30 March 2017, 9:50AM
RE: HB1195 HD1 SD1, Relating to Homelessness, **IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Keith-Agaran & Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Members of the Committees:

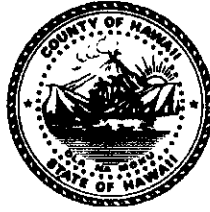
The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) strongly supports this measure to fund, among other homelessness related programs, a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot project. We are members of a 20-organization strong [grass-roots hui, led by the CHOW Project](#), that has been working for many months to bring LEAD to Hawai'i, and as such we welcome the support that this bill provides.

LEAD has been proven to work elsewhere in helping at-risk individuals who are often both houseless and use drugs. Instead of being arrested, they are diverted to various services including housing, mental health or substance abuse counseling. **This approach not only better serves the needs of the impacted individual, but it lessens the burdens and strains placed on our criminal justice system while also fostering greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to serve and protect.**

It was very exciting to see so many related measures being considered by the legislature this session, which when taken together truly would change the costly and punitive nature of Hawai'i's approach to criminal justice. Beginning with front-end solutions like LEAD and back-end ones like the Community Court as proposed in SB718 and HB457, we also supported changing some of our laws to decriminalize certain offenses, e.g. possession of drug paraphernalia (HB1501 HD2). In recognizing the need for a community court and for LEAD, we also recognize that our laws are criminalizing people who deserve better. **Updating our laws to reflect this is common sense, and creates a better environment in which LEAD and the Community Court can operate.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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March 28, 2017

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813


Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 1195, HD 1, SD 1
Relating to Homelessness**

I want to thank you for the attention that you are giving to the issue of homelessness. Homelessness reflects the failure of our society to meet the needs of all our people, and it is my hope that you and your fellow legislators will continue to strive to ease this burden and deal humanely with the pain that homelessness inflicts, both on those without shelter and on the community at large.

HB 1195, which calls on DHS/DOH to provide various kinds of outreach services, has been identified by our Big Island homeless experts—our local Community Alliance Partners— as one of their top priorities for this legislative session. I therefore am pleased to stand with them in asking that HB 1195 be approved with adequate funding and an early effective date.

Respectfully submitted,


Harry Kim
Mayor

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho`o

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

March 26, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of HB 1195 HD1 SD1 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1195 HD1 SD1 Relating to Homelessness.

Hawaii's homeless population includes runaway and homeless youth who are living on the streets without support or guidance from their families. More than 40% were thrown out of their homes by their families. They are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population because they are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide runaway and homeless youth collaboration. For the past 15 years, our partners have encountered 700 – 800 of these unaccompanied youth annually. Thirty percent (30%) of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for running away from home, an average of more than 4,400 arrests each year.

What happens to youth who are living on the street? Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep.

Homeless youth experience significant health challenges. They are:

- Twice as likely to get sick, be hospitalized, and go hungry.
- 7 times as likely to die from AIDS; 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV.
- 11 times as likely to experience mental health problems.
- 3 times as likely to experience major depression, conduct disorder, and PTSD.

- About 75% of homeless teens use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face.

Safety is a constant concern:

- Trauma and rape rates among unaccompanied youth are 2-3 higher than those of the general youth population.
- A U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services study found that 46% of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse. 17% left because of sexual abuse.
- 5,000 street youth die every year because of assault, illness, or suicide.
- More likely to be the victim of a crime rather than the perpetrator.

Most unaccompanied youth practice unsafe sexual practices:

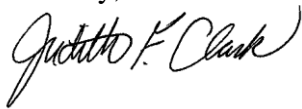
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy experience.

Street outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

If we want Hawaii's youth to grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed, we must reach out to our homeless adolescents and end youth homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



The Housing Now Coalition

Catherine Graham

Catgraham48@gmail.com

Rev. Bob Nakata

Bobnakata239@aol.com

A Coalition of FACE Hawaii

TESTIMONY ON HB 1195 SD1: Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senator Keith-Agaran, Chair, Judiciary and Labor; and Senator Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means, and committee members:

RE: **HB 1195 SD1**

FROM: Greg Payton, Chair of Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care

Hearing: **3/30/17, 9:50 am, room 211**

The Housing Now Coalition is in strong support of HB 1195. Our mission, of course is more affordable rental housing, specifically so that we will have units for our homeless neighbors. But in the meantime, it is our responsibility to do all we can to assist these folks to not sink lower.

Outreach is essential, especially to our unaccompanied youth, many of whom are throwaways – that is, their parents could not cope with them or care for them for various reasons. We have social workers ready to assist them – with sufficient funding.

The LEAD program, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, would be such an asset to our community. Offenders would get help rather than a jail sentence and our prisons could begin to empty.

Rent Subsidies to keep people from falling into homelessness and funding for our chronically homeless brothers and sisters are also so important.

This is the kind of bill that seems to me, no one can turn down. Please pass this bill on with recommendations to fund at the levels that Partners In Care see fit.

Warmest aloha,

Catherine Graham and Rev. Bob Nakata



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1195, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1,
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 1195, HD 1, SD 1, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2016 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,921 homeless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, up 4 percent from 2015. More than half of these persons were unsheltered. O’ahu accounted for 62 percent of the total (4,940 people), up 1 percent from the previous year. Kaua’i saw a 30 percent increase in the homeless population living on its shores (442 people), while the Big Island saw an increase of 12 percent (1,394 people). Overall, our state saw a 12 percent increase in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families and, concurrently, a 4.5 percent decrease in the number of sheltered individuals and families. Notably, the size of the homeless population on O’ahu is up 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials said, last January, that 3,576 public school students are homeless. Last year's PITC captured just over half of them. We know, then, that our state’s homeless population is not only larger than the statistics show, but growing.

Over 30 percent of juvenile arrests in Hawai’i are for running away from home, the highest proportion in the nation. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away. Approximately 75 percent of runaways are female, while 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth report being physically abused, 38 percent report being emotionally abused, and

17 percent report being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Roughly 30 percent runaway children will be approached for commercial sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, with over 80 percent being approached for the sex trade during the course of their time on streets. A federal study found that an estimated 38,600 runaway youth have been sexually assaulted, in the company of someone known to be sexually abusive, or engaged in sexual activity in exchange for money, food, or shelter. Runaways are perceived as easy targets for sex traffickers because they lack stable shelter, a supportive environment, and financial resources, placing them at greater risk of forced prostitution and sexual servitude.

Traffickers exploit our limited number of available shelter beds to lure young people into exploitation. As the homeless childcare provider Covenant House observes, traffickers tell homeless youth that shelters are full and ask, “Where are you going to go? Why don’t you come with me? I’ll take care of you.” Coupled with threats of and enacted physical and sexual violence against the victims or their families, these coercive techniques compel runaway youth to remain enslaved. LGBTQ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, IMUAlliance has heard their stories hundreds of times.

When you fund services for the homeless, especially outreach toward runaway youth, you are helping to end slavery in Hawai’i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:49:37 AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Cook	Ku Aloha Ola Mau	Support	No

Comments: Ku Aloha Ola Mau is in full support of SB1195 SD1 and funding to provide effective diversion from the criminal justice system and referral services to address the core issues for those who have mental health, substance abuse and homeless problems, which if addressed will result in success in all areas. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. Lisa Cook, Executive Director

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: **Testimony in support of HB 1195 SD1**, Relating to Homelessness

Hearing: Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:50 am, Room 211

Thank you for hearing HB 1195, SD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services and rental subsidies to reduce and prevent homelessness.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 75 years ago that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. We continue to be concerned with the high number of people experiencing homelessness in Hawai'i and the tie to mental illness.

We support the funding of outreach services to homeless populations facing specific challenges related to serious mental illness and substance abuse. Hawai'i's homeless youth need tailored outreach services to successfully bring them into shelter and on a path towards permanent housing.

We also strongly support the appropriation of funds to implement a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot program. LEAD will divert low-level offenders from arrest to appropriate services that will be more effective than jail time in meeting the complex needs of participants and offer them entry into housing and treatment. Too many of our homeless currently get arrested and incarcerated with no positive effect on them or the community. LEAD will give people the option of help rather than arrest. It has seen much success in other jurisdictions with homeless problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. You can reach me at trisha@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1195 SD1: Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senator Keith-Agaran, Chair, Judiciary and Labor; and Senator Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means, and committee members:
RE: **HB 1195 SD1**
FROM: Greg Payton, Chair of Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care
Hearing: **3/30/17, 9:50 am, room 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of multiple items in **HB 1195 SD1**. I am Greg Payton, Chair of the Advocacy Committee of Partners in Care (PIC). Partners in Care is a coalition of homeless service providers and many others in the community on Oahu dedicated to ending homelessness.

HB 1195 would create the most needed next steps in ending homelessness: enhanced **Outreach**, including for homeless **youth** and **diversion** of homeless from the criminal justice system; and **ongoing rental subsidies** for working homeless people/families and those at risk of homelessness.

PIC strongly supports the following funding which will create a range of options to significantly reduced homelessness in our state:

- Funds for homeless outreach: \$1,500,000
 - Includes \$300,000 for youth outreach
- Funds for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges: \$1,000,000
- Funds for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless individuals and families with severe substance use disorders: \$ 800,000
 - Includes \$200,000 for a LEAD pilot project
- Funds for ongoing rental supplement for homeless Individuals/families or those at imminent risk for homelessness, and positions to operate the program \$7,000,000

Funding for those with **severe and persistent mental illness and substance abuse**: these are the chronic and most difficult to reach homeless population, requiring numerous contacts – sometimes months and months – in order to establish trust and bring into services.

Youth Outreach: Children living alone on the streets is a tragedy. Outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth is essential to help these often “hidden homeless” kids who are living in perilous and life threatening situations.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

Funding for **ongoing rent subsidies**: This is essential to rapidly house homeless who linger on the streets simply due to their low incomes. Almost 20% of homeless families are working. Seniors and disabled have stable incomes but homeless like these are priced out of the housing market. They are ready to rent, without need for intensive services, but need an ongoing shallow rent subsidy to fill the gap between their incomes and Hawaii's rents. The **State Rent Supplement Program** can provide this rental assistance to quickly move these homeless into permanent housing.

Funding for **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)**. This is a win-win: Homeless substance abusers who have a small amount of drugs are offered assistance of a social worker instead of being booked and going to jail. The program this is modeled after has been enormously successful: Of those served by LEAD in Seattle, 82% were homeless – and **40% of them were housed**; they were **60% less likely to be re-arrested**, and **55% received drug treatment**. LEAD reduces **the prison population, reduces the amount of time and costs of law enforcement in dealing with these individuals who cycle in and out of jail; reduces the homeless population; and gets those with substance use disorders into treatment. It's enormously cost saving – and lifesaving.**

We thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to ending homelessness. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Payton, Chair of Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care, at: (808) 529-4554 or gpayton@mhkhawaii.org.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

March 30, 2017

Board of Directors

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Past-Chair*
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TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Member of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB 1195, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: March 30, 2017 at 9:50pm
Conference Room 211

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Labor and Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1195, HD1, SD1. I am Natalie Okeson, the Interim Executive Director of PHOCUSED.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state. In addition, as a member of Partners in Care, PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support HB1195, HD1, SD1.

Our organization believes that, although many strides have been made, Hawaii's ranking as the nation's leader in per capita homelessness demands major investment, as well as action on the part of all community members. This bill is a crucial piece of the aforementioned investment. HB1195, HD1, SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, including the office of youth services, to provide homeless outreach services to those with mental illness, substance abuse disorders, families with children and unaccompanied youth.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Board of Directors

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Past-Chair

Ryan Kusumoto

Victor Geminiani

John McComas

Darcie Scharfenstein

Alan Shinn

Michelle Gray

Joanne Lundstrom, Emeritus

Outreach is a crucial component of working to house those persons living unsheltered. Without the first contact made through outreach, none of the services related to housing and treatment can be offered. The dedicated individuals performing outreach work build much needed trust with our homeless individuals over the course of many, many contacts. It is often this trust with our professional outreach workers that finally enables someone to agree to seek treatment or to be assessed to determine which shelter or housing option would be appropriate.

Our organization also fully supports the LEAD program, which is gaining traction and changing lives in our nation's most innovative cities.

PHOCUSED encourages the passage of this bill on many grounds, especially given the foundational importance of outreach in impacting homelessness as mentioned above, but would like to highlight that sixty seven percent of runaway youth are fleeing physical or sexual abuse at home and that one third of those children will find themselves sexually trafficked within 48hours. The critical nature of outreach to the homeless youth population cannot be overstated.

On a final note, PHOCUSED supports the recent amendments made in SD1. On-going rental subsidies can provide the necessary assistance to quickly move Hawaii's homeless into permanent housing for those who are homeless due to the massive gap between wages and rental prices. Over 20% of Hawaii's homeless population is working. Senior citizens and the working poor do not need intensive services in many cases; rather, they need a helping hand in reconciling their low income and skyrocketing rents to avoid homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1195, HD1, SD1.



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

Andre Cox
General

Kenneth Hodder
Territorial Commander

John Chamness
Lani Chamness
Divisional Leaders

Melanie Boehm
Executive Director

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services

3/28/17

HB1195 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR:

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, Mar. 30, 2017 at 9:50 a.m.
Conference Room 211

The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services Supports HB1195 with one suggestion for change in wording and an emphasis on law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD):

- **SECTION 3: Suggested wording change**, because many chronically homeless have severe mental illness, a co-morbid medical illness, and/or a chronic substance use disorder.

According to the [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#), approximately 67% of people experiencing chronic homelessness have a primary substance use disorder or other chronic health condition and around 30% have a serious mental illness. These health problems may create difficulties in accessing and maintaining stable, affordable, and appropriate housing.¹

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for outreach, counseling, and diversion for homeless unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse, "co-occurring mental health disorders, and/or

¹ SAMHSA: Homeless and Housing. <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-housing>
Addiction Treatment Services

3624 Waokanaka Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 ♦Tel: (808) 595-6371 ♦Fax: (808) 595-8250

Family Treatment Services

845 22nd Avenue ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816 ♦Tel: (808) 732-2802 ♦Fax: (808) 734-7470

Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org

Participating Agency



Aloha United Way



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Founded in 1865

William Booth
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Lani Chamness
Divisional Leaders

Melanie Boehm
Executive Director

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services

comorbid medical illness;" provided that \$ shall be allocated for the law enforcement assisted diversion pilot project.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

- **SECTION 3: The Salvation Army also supports the inclusion of LEAD in HB1195.** LEAD is the innovative program model that has shown promising success in diverting individuals having low-level substance abuse related criminal behavior towards community treatment and case management services. Current programs across the nation indicate that the majority of low-level criminal activity is committed by people struggling with a substance use disorder.
- Substance abuse is associated with almost 20% of all Medicaid hospital costs and nearly 25% of Medicare dollars spent on inpatient care. Over 14% of patients admitted to hospitals have alcohol/drug abuse and addiction disorders.
- 70% of individuals in state prisons and jails have used illegal drugs regularly. Drug offenders account for more than one-third of the growth in state prison population and more than 80 percent of the increase in the number of prison inmates since 1985.
- Alcohol and Drug-related hospital emergency (ED) visits increased 81 percent from 2004 to 2009 while ED visits involving the non-medical use of pharmaceuticals increased 98.4%.²

LEAD works by giving low-level drug offenders a choice: they can go the standard route of arrest-prosecution-incarceration, or be sent to a case-management program, which offers support services including transitional housing, counseling, job training and treatment for substance use disorders.

The Salvation Army ATS-FTS supports new processes and procedures to identify and coordinate care for high-end users of emergency medical care who have substance abuse, mental health, and multiple chronic conditions of health. We must effectively coordinate care, treat multiple conditions, and improve the effectiveness of treatment outcomes. The proposed funding can demonstrate the cost effectiveness of providing treatment for the chronic homeless population.

²Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (formerly the Office of Applied Studies). *The DAWN Report: Highlights of the 2009 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Findings on Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits*. Rockville, MD, December 28, 2010. Available at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/DAWN034/EDHighlights.htm>
Addiction Treatment Services

3624 Waokanaka Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96817 ♦Tel: (808) 595-6371 ♦Fax: (808) 595-8250
Family Treatment Services

845 22nd Avenue ♦ Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96816 ♦Tel: (808) 732-2802 ♦Fax: (808) 734-7470
Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org



Participating Agency



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Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

Andre Cox
General

Kenneth Hodder
Territorial Commander

John Chamness
Lani Chamness
Divisional Leaders

Melanie Boehm
Executive Director

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services

Sincerely,

Melanie T. Boehm MA, LMHC, CSAC
Executive Director ATS-FTS

Participating Agency



Addiction Treatment Services
3624 Waokanaka Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 ♦ Tel: (808) 595-6371 ♦ Fax: (808) 595-8250
Family Treatment Services
845 22nd Avenue ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816 ♦ Tel: (808) 732-2802 ♦ Fax: (808) 734-7470
Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1195 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Judiciary and Labor Chair and Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Ways and Means Chair and members of the committees

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Thursday, March 30th 9:50 AM Room 211

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB1195 HD1.

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project supports the legislature's assertion that addressing homelessness requires a strategic, multi-faceted approach. Moreover, the CHOW Project strongly supports the proposed appropriation of funds to begin a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot program.

CHOW started and coordinates the Hawaii LEAD HUI, a group of 24 agencies dedicated to implementing a LEAD pilot in Hawaii with fidelity to the Seattle model (<http://leadkingcounty.org>).

Seattle's LEAD program has effectively diverted low-level offenders from arrest to non-punitive programs that allow the individual to receive appropriate support from the community. LEAD has five years of data showing its effectiveness:

- LEAD participants were 58% less likely to be re-arrested
- LEAD participants accessed services (49% mental health treatment, 55% drug treatment)

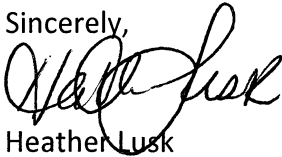
In order to replicate these outcomes in Hawaii, we must also replicate the core components that the evaluation found to be effective for LEAD, including:

- Harm-reduction based intensive case management with a warm hand off from law enforcement, with only an intake mandated to participate;
- On-going case coordination between law enforcement and community-based case managers;
- A coordinating committee comprised of law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, public safety and community members such as the LEAD hui; and
- Comprehensive data collection and program evaluation to identify elements of effectiveness.

LEAD is a key component to the multi-faceted approach to homelessness that the legislature wishes to implement. LEAD, when implemented with fidelity to the Seattle model, will be an effective complement to other programs dedicated to addressing issues around homelessness, such as the community outreach court. The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families and communities adversely affected by drug use, especially people who inject drugs, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug-related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C, and overdose. CHOW supports the optimal health and well-being of people affected by drug use throughout the State of Hawaii. CHOW has operated the statewide syringe exchange program for the past twenty years. CHOW supports the harm reduction model to addressing drug use and further supports the decriminalization of drug paraphernalia offenses.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and please support HB1195 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Lusk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lusk".

Heather Lusk
Executive Director
CHOW Project

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Position Statement in Support of House Bill 1195 HD1 SD1

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **support of HB 1195**, relating to homelessness. This bill would make appropriations for comprehensive outreach to people experiencing homelessness. The investment made to address homelessness and outreach is small compared to the costs of homelessness increasing and the toll it takes on our community.

In the past year, our state has made great strides in getting people off the street and into shelter or housing. We need to take the next step and reach those individuals who need the most help getting people off the streets. Targeting hard to reach groups, like unaccompanied youth or persons with serious mental illness, requires strategic outreach. Without outreach, however, there is only a slim chance a person experiencing homelessness would connect to the services they need to get off the streets.

We also need to address the connection between homelessness and incarceration. The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program aims to reduce the number of people arrested for low-level drug offenses by referring them to a case manager. The program launched in Seattle and it has made substantial progress in addressing a range of issues. Notably, the majority of those who were homeless received housing and they were less likely to be re-arrested. There is a broad coalition of support from community members and service providers for LEAD and the positive impact it can have on our community.

House bill 1195 ensures the good work by our state continues. It provides for a sophisticated strategy of outreach and programs. I urge your support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.
Kathleen Algire
Advocacy Coordinator

March 28, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1195 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS
Hearing on March 30, 2017, 2:45pm, Room 016

TO: Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and
Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means

FROM: Barbara Polk

I am testifying as an individual concerned about the money and time spent over the past decade or more on failed attempts to deal with homelessness. I strongly support HB 1195 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for outreach, including the Law Enforcement Diversion Program (LEAD) and outreach and services for the mentally ill, substance abuse, families and youth, as well as funds for rental assistance for people facing homelessness.

The bill is comprehensive in its approach, with the focus on direct service to the targets groups, rather than planning or central administrative functions. If adequately funded, it should begin to seriously address the needs of homeless individuals, as well as save the state money in the long run.

I am especially happy to see the LEAD program included, since it allows for diversion to services for individuals accused of low-level offenses, resulting in improved service to those individuals, as well as reducing the jail population. At times recently, more than 50% of the people held in OCCC have been pre-trial detainees, most of whom are charged with low level offenses and are there awaiting trial only because they cannot pay bail. Our jails should not become warehouses for people who are mentally ill or homeless. The LEAD program, as implemented in Seattle, has been highly successful in keeping offenders out of jail and setting them on a better path, by treating them as human beings, rather than as criminals. I look forward to the success of the program here as well.

I urge you to pass HB1195 HD1 SD1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 1:53:06 PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/25/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:02:32 PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caseypotetz@gmail.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs needs funding to operate properly. This bill will keep the sick and homeless out of the criminal justice system, helping with our prison over-crowding problem and creating better relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:07:55 PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 26, 2017

Senator Jill Tiokuda, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of HB 1195 HD1 SD1 Relating to Homelessness

Partners in Care strongly supports HB 1195 HD1 SD1, making appropriations for multiple outreach initiatives to provide comprehensive outreach to move homeless people into permanent housing and divert them from the criminal justice system.

Partners in Care is a coalition of services providers working together to eliminate homelessness in Hawaii.

Hawaii is #1 in the nation for the number of homeless per capita. More people are falling through the cracks in Hawaii. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc. Neighbor Island as well as Oahu providers are struggling to reach out to the increasing number of unsheltered homeless. Outreach is the first step to moving people into permanent housing. More funding is critical to reach these newly homeless and rapidly move them into shelters and other programs. We also need targeted outreach to the mentally ill, substance abusers, and street kids, as well as civil legal services to help people resolve roadblocks to obtaining housing.

Suggested Amendment: We request that “\$ _____ be allocated for ongoing rental subsidies for homeless and persons at imminent risk of becoming homeless, and _____ positions to operate the program. Monies are to be expended by _____ department.” Funding was taken out of the executive budget for ongoing rental subsidies which would rapidly house homeless working families, seniors or others with a stable income and capable of paying rent. They just have a gap between their incomes and rents in Hawaii. We request that this be added to this stand-alone bill since there can be benchmarks to measure the effectiveness of these funds. With increased outreach we also need resources for the next step of housing the homeless

We must identify and help the often hidden homeless youth. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii are for running away—averaging **4,493 per year!** These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. National statistics show a shocking severity: 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home with the average age of entry into prostitution at 14 years old. Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems. We must address this growing tragedy of kids living on the streets in Hawai‘i.

We also need to divert the homeless from the criminal justice system to services. A pilot Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion project (LEAD) can build on other successful programs which found that 60% of people in LEAD were less likely than people in a control group to be arrested. 82% were homeless and 40% became housed. According to the Honolulu Police Department, **43% of detainees** in HPD’s central cell block last year were homeless. LEAD would lead the

homeless to programs vs to jail. Over 20 agencies are in the LEAD Hawaii Hui, seeking to implement this successful program for Hawaii.

We strongly urge your support for this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness.

Sincerely,

Greg Payton
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Partners in Care

TESTIMONY ON HB 1195 SD1: Relating to Homelessness

TO: Sen Keith-Agaran, Chair, Judiciary and Labor; and Sen. Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means, and committee members:
RE: **HB 1195 SD1**
FROM: Marya Grambs, member of Partners in Care and PHOCUSED Board of Directors
Hearing: **3/30/17, 9:50 am, room 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of multiple items in **HB 1195 SD1**. I am with Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of homeless service providers and many others in the community on Oahu dedicated to ending homelessness; and PHOCUSED, which advocates for services and policies for the most vulnerable populations – underserved, seniors, children, elderly, and disabled.

HB 1195 would create the most needed next steps in ending homelessness: enhanced **Outreach**, including for homeless **youth** and **diversion** of homeless from the criminal justice system; and **ongoing rental subsidies** for working homeless people/families and those at risk of homelessness.

We strongly support the following funding which will create a range of options to significantly reduced homelessness in our state:

\$1.5M for homeless outreach, Includes \$300,000 for youth outreach
\$1M for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges:
\$800,000 for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless individuals and families with severe substance use disorders; includes \$200,000 for a LEAD pilot project
\$7M for ongoing rental supplement for homeless individuals/families or those at imminent risk for homelessness, and positions to operate the program

Funding for those with **severe and persistent mental illness and substance abuse**: these are the chronic and most difficult to reach homeless population, requiring numerous contacts – sometimes months and months and even years – in order to establish trust and bring into services.

Youth Outreach: Children living alone on the streets is a tragedy. Outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth is essential to help these often “hidden homeless” kids who are living in perilous and life threatening situations.

Funding for **ongoing rent subsidies**: This is essential to rapidly house homeless who linger on the streets simply due to their low incomes. Almost 20% of homeless families are working. Seniors and disabled have stable incomes but homeless people like these are priced out of the housing market. They are ready to rent, without need for intensive services, but need an ongoing shallow rent subsidy to fill the gap between their incomes and Hawaii’s rents. The **State Rent Supplement Program** can provide this rental assistance to quickly move these homeless into permanent housing – and enable them to **STAY** in housing.

Funding for **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)**. This is a win-win: Homeless substance abusers who have a small amount of drugs are offered assistance of a social worker instead of being booked and going to jail. The program this is modeled after has been enormously successful: Of those served by LEAD LEAD reduces the prison population, reduces the amount of time and costs of law enforcement in dealing with these individuals who cycle in and out of jail; reduces the homeless population; and gets those with substance use disorders into treatment. It’s enormously cost saving – and lifesaving.

We thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to ending homelessness. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808 778 9178 or mgrambs@hotmail.com .

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:02:34 AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We absolutely must doing everything in our power to prevent our youth from experiencing homelessness and helping youth who are homeless transition to stable housing. Please support this bill.

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 1:37:40 AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/25/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:55:11 AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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Testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1195 HD1 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR,
TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FROM: Wendy Gibson R.N./BSN

HEARING: Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 9:50 a.m. Conference Room 211

Dear Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz,
and Members of the Committees,

My name is Wendy Gibson and I strongly support HB1195 HD1 SD1 as I believe funding law enforcement assisted diversion programs is the way to reduce prison overcrowding and put an end to criminalization of sick and homeless people.

Giving law enforcement officers the option to divert people into social services instead of jail also has the benefit of creating better relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a program that is working well in Seattle, Washington with reports that people in the program are 58% less likely to be arrested a second time, 55% received drug treatment and 40% of the homeless were housed. (Source: <http://leadkingcounty.org/>).

In Hawaii, a community of service providers, community organizations, agencies, and policymakers have been meeting since June 2016 to build the infrastructure that is vital to make this program work.

Funding for community-based treatment and support services is crucial to this program's success.

Please pass HB1195 HD1 SD1 as a means to appropriate money aimed at resourcing activities to conduct outreach to chronically homeless individuals and families with substance abuse and mental health issues.

According to the Honolulu Police Department: Of the 16,000 arrests made on Oahu last year, 61% involved people who were severely mentally ill or abusing drugs, 43% of detainees in HPD's central cell block last year were homeless. Of those, 72% had a serious mental illness or substance abuse problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about this important project.

Wendy Gibson R.N., BSN, American Cannabis Nurses Association Member