

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1195 H.D. 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

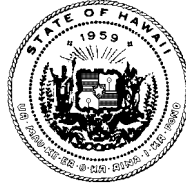
Hearing Date: February 23, 2017

Room Number: 308

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 addicted to drugs or alcohol and individuals
13 with severe mental illness. The DOH asks the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive
14 Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes appropriations to the DOH for outreach services
15 to homeless persons with severe and persistent mental illness, and outreach, counseling, and
16 diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons experiencing substance abuse. The DOH
17 requests that any appropriations resulting from this bill do not supplant or replace priorities
18 requested in the Executive Budget.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 23, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1195 HD1– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide funding to address the State's homeless crisis and the amendments made by the Human Services and Health Committees. DHS appreciates the clarification of which agencies and sections will be required to implement this measure. DHS still has some concerns that the measure may adversely affect the Governor's Executive budget requests for homelessness. DHS asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive budget requests and defers to Department of Health in regards to section 2 and 3 and the Office of Youth Services in regards to section 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funding for various outreach programs. Homeless Programs Office (HPO) has currently awarded \$4.4 million for outreach services and \$600,000 for civil legal services. The outreach services include, but not limited to, providing or referring to medical care, mental healthcare, and substance use treatment programs.

DHS respectfully asks that the Legislature support similar requests in the Governor's Executive Budget to address homelessness; appropriations through the Executive Budget supports program continuity and overall improvement in the delivery of services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 21, 2017

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1195 HD1, Relating to Homelessness**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of the measure but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget. Outreach to youth experiencing homelessness is an important foundational activity in building a trusting relationship that would lead to better outcomes. The outreach and relationship building are especially critical for hard to reach and resistant youth, including unaccompanied homeless youth, many who have suffered from trauma and/or other types of adverse childhood experiences. Unaccompanied homeless youth present complex risk factors that are difficult to address and requires an approach that is rooted in acceptance, trauma-informed and long-term advocacy.

OYS currently provides outreach and advocacy services for youth experiencing, or at-risk for, homelessness through purchase of service contracts statewide. Additional resources would bolster the continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds to the DOH and DHS, including Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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

February 21, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
And members of the Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 1195 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1195 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:

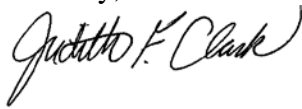
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy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



TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and the Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Thursday, February 23, 2017; 12:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

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

We support the intent of HB 1195, HD1 – Relating to Homelessness. Homelessness is largely about poverty. Social service support to homeless youth and families have immediate and long-term benefits that include higher levels of educational achievement, reduced homelessness, reduced crime, reduced substance abuse, improved health, and overall better social and economic well being.

History has shown that as the economy has changed to negatively impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society, it has a direct tie to increased homelessness. These impacts have long lasting and multi-generational consequences. History has also shown that the lack of expansion in governmental safety net programs and the inability of social service programs to keep up with the rising needs severely impacts the war on poverty and homelessness.

This bill will support the critical services for families that are most in need. Parents And Children Together supports this bill and notes that it is of critical importance that this bill supports the social service delivery to families with young/preschool-aged children. The first 5 years of a child's life provides the foundation for future development. Access to services at an early age will help early identification of developmental, social/emotional, and educational issues. It is also critical to serve this population because families with young children do not often seek these services because of the fear of their children will be taken away from them. Services also to parents and caregivers are critical to address their unique circumstances.

There are approximately 8,000 keiki in Hawaii between the ages of 3-5 living in poverty and approximately 10,000 from the ages of 0-3. Many of these kids are homeless. Support of this bill will provide the funding that benefits the child and their families as they deal with homelessness and poverty. This is a key component to our war on intergenerational poverty. **All children in Hawaii, no matter what their circumstance, deserve a chance.**

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1195, HD1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

TO: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members,
Committee on Finance
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Thursday, 2/23/17; 12:00 PM; CR 308**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1195, 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. 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. More funding is critical to reach these newly homeless and rapidly move them into shelters and other programs. We also need targeted outreach to meet the special needs of the mentally ill, substance abusers, and street kids, as well as civil legal services to help homeless people resolve roadblocks to obtaining housing.

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. 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. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, , at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.





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

February 08, 2017

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TO: Representative Silvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

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

Hearing: February 23, 2017 at 12:00pm
Conference Room 308

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.

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 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.

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.



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

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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.

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



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, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke 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, 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

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12 PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308

Position Statement in Support of House Bill 1195

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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

Relating to LAW ENFORCEMENT /HOMELESSNESS

Testimony for HB1195 HD1 (LEAD) Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

I speak in support of this bill. New approaches to law enforcement must be entertained. We can no longer have a draconian “lock them up throw away the key” policy approach that create a population of individuals relegated to a life of second class citizenry. In addition, per research approximately 125 dollars per day is being spent on persons in custody awaiting trial. 50 percent of the population within OCCC fit this current category. From going to community meeting regarding incarceration and public safety, some persons arrested (primarily homeless or poor individuals) who are unable to pay \$50 or \$100 dollars fine will remain in custody. It would be of the best interest of this committee to consider that \$125 a day is approximately \$45,625 per year (based upon 125dollars x 365 days). Per month this amount totals \$3,802. Having individuals arrested for petty crimes being able to be released to a social service provider with supporting services would be far more cost effective than spending close to \$4,000 dollars per month keeping that person behind bars who is unable to pay for 50 or 100 dollars to be released.

This bill is part of the solution in promoting Harm reduction methods and strategies. The LEAD program is not a diversionary program per se, but will increase positive interface between Law Enforcement and the community and more importantly interface between law enforcement and person whom they might have encounters with. Places like Seattle has found success with the LEAD program. Hawaii such be the next champion of this policy. I strongly support this policy and also the companion Bill HB 535 within the House and, all other data driven harm reduction policy measures. This is not only a fiscally sound policy but also lead to better outcomes and a safer community.

Furthermore, I would like to add that other additional request within the bill regarding the following apportions should be voted for in the affirmative like the LEAD. These programs will save the state millions more dollars then what we are currently spending trying to deal with problem of homeless and mental health rather than preventive approaches.

\$1,000,000 for outreach to homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illness

\$800,000 for outreach, counseling, and diversion for homeless unsheltered persons experience substance abuse

\$1,200,000 for outreach to individuals and families with children

\$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth

\$500,000 for civil legal services for homeless persons

Ken Farm (Speaking only for myself)

Member-At-Large

Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No 15

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM*

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia K.L. Rezentes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Representative Luke and members of the Finance Committee, I am submitting testimony in strong support for additional monies to be expended on extending and amplifying outreach programs to reach those homeless and houseless who are more difficult to encounter and require multiple encounters to encourage their acceptance towards receiving help that could get them the support they require, e.g. medications/support to address mental health issues, encounter youth and either reunite them with their families or attempt to provide other alternatives than abandoning youth to survive however they can (including prostitution, drugs, etc.) These funds would help all islands address those that require the most time and effort to help get off the streets, beaches, etc. I encourage your strong support to pass this bill. Mahalo, Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

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Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: paulwnormann@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Youth Homelessness is a an inexcusable moral wrong. We must do everything in our power to minimize the number or youth who find themselves living on the streets, squatting, couch surfing, or otherwise homeless.

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HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB1195. I have been a volunteer board member of IHS, Hale Kipa Youth Services, and other organizations who are so challenged trying to meet the needs of homeless persons in Hawaii. These services are essential to address homelessness and unaccompanied youth in our community. We have a dire need for additional appropriate services for these people, and this bill provides essential assistance that can make a positive difference in their lives and the quality of our community. Thank you helping take productive measures to help address this problem

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:08 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: moana7@hawaii.edu
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Moana Schwenke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1195. As a social work graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am studying to gain the necessary knowledge to help all vulnerable populations. Homeless youth are one of the most vulnerable groups in the state of Hawaii. As an intern with Department of Human Services/Child Welfare Services, I have seen firsthand the effects of poverty and homelessness. Homelessness in and of itself does equate to inappropriate behavior. But, often homeless does make one vulnerable risky behavior that include drug use, physical abuse, etc. Appropriations must be made to assist the homeless population, specifically homeless youth. Outreach programs can be seen as both prevention and intervention assisting these young people to improve their situation by giving them hope for a better future. When one is deprived of basic human needs like shelter and food, it is extremely difficult to focus on anything other than survival; again, with the potential for risky or even criminal behavior. I personally feel there is hope for every individual to have a fulfilling life. Homeless youth need support and tools to change the trajectory of their lives. They are our future, providing appropriations for outreach programs can benefit society as a whole. The ultimate goal would be to eradicate homelessness completely. But realistically, homelessness is not going away anytime soon, passing HB1195 would make outreach an option to assist those living in this situation right now. Sincerely, Moana Schwenke University of Hawaii at Manoa, MSW Candidate

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gavin@hiappleseed.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM*

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gavin Thornton	Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM*



HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM



HB1195

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane S. Martinson	Housing Now!	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have written previously in support of HB1195 which provides outreach services to the homeless in our communities, including our youth who are homeless. I continue to support this bill with the amendments as put forth in written testimony by Terry Walsh of Catholic Charities Hawai'i. The amendments are as follows: Section 3: No expending agency is listed. Add: The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act. Section 5. Two departments are listed as the expending agent. The office of youth services of DHS is the appropriate department. Delete: The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 1195 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill to the extent it is similar to the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget, and provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request that includes appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH) for \$1.5 million for homeless outreach; \$500,000 for civil legal services for homeless persons; \$1 million for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges; and \$800,000 for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless persons with severe substance use disorders.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DOH and DHS, including the Office of Youth Services (OYS), to provide homeless outreach services.

Homeless outreach is a critical component of the State's framework to address homelessness, and is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households in the community and to build rapport that connects them to housing and services, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, or shelter. Outreach workers provide a comprehensive array of services, including completing applications for housing and services, housing search, and obtaining identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless outreach, many homeless

individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

In addition to homeless outreach services funded by DHS, the Department of Health (DOH) is requesting funding in the Executive Budget for targeted mental health and substance use treatment services for the unsheltered homeless population. These services are part of the State framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for outreach, mental health and substance use treatment, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and the State Rent Supplement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



LATE

February 22, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: HB 1195 HD 1 – Relating to Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 23, 2017, 12:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 1195 HD 1– Relating to Homelessness.

While we support the full bill, HCAN's testimony will focus on homeless families and unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth.

Unaccompanied youth: Outreach and housing for unaccompanied youth is especially critical. Currently there are no state or federal funds in Hawaii for this outreach. Unaccompanied youth living on the streets have different needs and issues than homeless adults and families, while the unaccompanied youth are also some of the most invisible and vulnerable segment of the homeless population. They need outreach and housing programs that are tailored to address their specific needs such as counseling, safety, health issues, and workers who understand adolescent development and their mental health challenges.

Homeless Children: Hawaii has the highest homeless rate in the nation. It's estimated that one-third of the homeless in Hawaii are children.

Unstable Housing: Many of our families may not be living on the street or the beach, yet they don't have permanent housing -- they stay with friends and family -- moving frequently.

High cost of housing for families: 60 percent of households with young children in Hawaii pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

According to a 2012 report published by Child Trends, children and youth who experience a high degree of instability and turbulence in their lives are more likely to suffer higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems. Children and youth who are homeless may suffer from hunger, poor physical and emotional health, and missed educational opportunities.

Hawaii needs a comprehensive solution that helps families and youth at every stage to secure stable housing solutions and build a pathway toward greater economic stability and a healthier thriving community. Outreach is vital to helping families and unaccompanied youth leave the streets and find better living situations.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

LATE

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)



What is LEAD?

LEAD is a pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion program. In LEAD, low-level offenders for whom probable cause for arrest exists are diverted from arrest or booking by immediately referring them to harm-reduction, non-abstinence based, individualized case management.

Why is LEAD important?

LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches to currently illegal activities such as drug use *and* other activities that individuals engage in to obtain funds to purchase drugs (e.g. car prowls, mail theft, prostitution, shoplifting) can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system.

What does LEAD offer?

LEAD offers individualized case management services. The types of services accessed are entirely determined by individual participants and their case manager. As noted the *only* requirement for being in LEAD is to complete an intake assessment within a specified period of time. After that the individual is free to walk away without repercussion.

Does LEAD work?

LEAD started in Seattle, WA in 2011 and was heavily evaluated.

- People in LEAD were 58% less likely than people in the control group to be arrested after being in LEAD
- 82% were homeless prior to participation and 40% were housed
- 55% received drug treatment through LEAD
- Over 35 jurisdictions are exploring or already implementing LEAD

Who is involved in LEAD?

LEAD involves a wide variety of stakeholders including the Mayor's Office, City Council members, the Attorney General's Office, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Police and Sheriff Departments, Public Safety, legislators and healthcare and social service providers and the community.

For more information, visit <http://leadkingcounty.org/>

LEAD Hawaii Hui

ACLU - Hawaii Chapter
ALEA Bridge
CARE Hawaii
Community Alliance on Prisons
CHOW Project
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii
Harm Reduction Hawaii
Harm Reduction Services Branch,
Hawaii State Dept. of Health
Hawaii Appleseed
Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition
Helping Hands Hawaii
Hina Mauka
Institute for Human Services
Ku Aloha ola Mau
Mental Health America of Hawaii
Partners in Care
PHOCUSED
State Office of the Public Defender
The Salvation Army ATS-FTS
Susannah Wesley Community Center
We are Oceania
Waikiki Health

Want to see LEAD in Hawaii? Join our hui! Contact Heather at hlusk@chowproject.org