

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

February 7, 2017

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1195, Relating to Homelessness

Hearing: Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1195: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair, Human Services; Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Health; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Health
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/8/17; 9:00 am; CR 329**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written 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. Outreach can provide the compassionate contacts and housing navigation to help people be linked to appropriate resources with housing as the goal. 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. See the attached handout on LEAD.

We suggest the following amendments:

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.

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

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 60% 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
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
The Salvation Army ATS-FTS
Susannah Wesley Community Center
We are Oceania

Want to see LEAD in Hawaii?
Join our hui!
Contact Heather at
hlusk@chowproject.org
or call 853-3292.



TO: Members of the House Committee on Human Services and House Committee on Health
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: Wednesday, February 8, 2017; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

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

We support the intent of HB 1195 – 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**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

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 3, 2017

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

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:

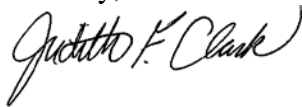
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy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



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

February 08, 2017

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chis Todd, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

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

Hearing: February 08, 2017 at 9:00am
Conference Room 329

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 SB1214.

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.

1822 Keeamoku Street, Ulu Center ☉ Honolulu, HI 96822 ☉ P: 808.521.7459
www.phocused-hawaii.org ☉ admin@phocused-hawaii.org



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

This bill is a crucial piece of the aforementioned investment. HB 1195 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.

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.



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1195, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

House Committee on Human Services
Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health
Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Morikawa, Chair Belatti, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, 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, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2016 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,921 houseless 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 houseless 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

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:34 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:30 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:57 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha senators, my name is Camila Chaudron and I am a constituent from the Manoa/Makiki area. I strongly support this bill. Youth homelessness is sadly a major issue in our state and the more we can do to help and stabilize our younger generation, the safer, healthier and more productive our community will be. Mahalo.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 4:56 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in favor of the appropriations of funds in this bill to DOH and DHS, including the office of youth services, to provide outreach services to the homeless in our communities. This contact is beneficial, compassionate, and effective.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Chair Dee Morikawa

Vice Chair Chris Todd

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Chair Della Au Belatti

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

HB 1195

I am Joseph Butindaro, a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying in support of HB 1195.

Currently, I have noticed the link between incarceration, mental illness, and the perpetuation of homelessness in the state. It is a known fact that homelessness is a crisis here in the State of Hawaii, and that the numbers of people whom are homeless continue to grow annually. At my current place of internship, I have been privileged enough to assist in counseling and providing therapy for various clients whom have criminal records and who are currently seeking shelter and work. I believe it is of utmost importance that these individuals receive treatment and support services in order to become more productive members of society and to decrease the homeless population of the State.

This is why I am in agreement of Page 2, Lines 1 – 9.

Joseph Butindaro

2627 Nakookoo St. APT#B
Honolulu, HI 96826

(808)-726-6482

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:17 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: Kathleen.Elliott808@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Elliott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Kathleen Elliott and I live in Honolulu. I have worked as a health care provider for homeless youth and I support this bill

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:25 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

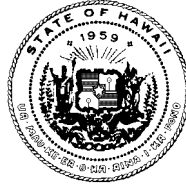
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

LATE

February 8, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1195 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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. DHS 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.

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 the Governor's Executive budget to address homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 8, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1195 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

LATE

February 6, 2017

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

Re: **HB 1195 – Relating to Homelessness**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 8, 2017, 9:00 AM

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: husk@chowproject.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1195 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 5:08:34 PM

HB1195

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

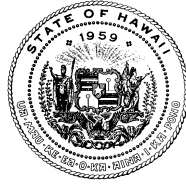
Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



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
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 8, 2017

Room Number: 329

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. Coordination with the Governor's Office on Homelessness are
14 underway to support a coordinated/strategic effort in this area. The DOH asks the Legislature's
15 support of the Governor's Executive Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes
16 appropriations to the DOH for outreach services to homeless persons with severe and persistent
17 mental illness, and outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons

1 experiencing substance abuse. The DOH requests that any appropriations resulting from this bill
2 do not supplant or replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19