



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: HB2112– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact budget priorities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. The bill also appropriates \$20,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2021 for the pilot program, and requires the Lieutenant Governor to designate the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and other appropriate agencies to develop and implement the pilot program. A minimum of six sites for the pilot program shall be identified on Oahu, and at least one site on each of the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator, recently voted to prioritize sustained funding commitments for affordable rental housing as a part of its 2020 legislative priorities to address homelessness. In particular, the HICH recognized a need to develop site-based permanent supportive housing units that could be paired with supportive services to address the needs of chronically homeless households.

A 2018 analysis by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) projected a need for 1,808 new permanent supportive housing units or vouchers for chronically homeless households on Oahu within the next 10 years.¹ The development of nine separate Kauhale pilot sites statewide will assist in closing the gap in housing for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.

The Lieutenant Governor has partnered with HomeAid Hawaii to begin work on a Kauhale project located in Kalaeloa on Oahu on land owned by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). The proposed Kauhale in Kalaeloa represents a public-private partnership in which HomeAid Hawaii is donating labor and housing units, and the Kalaeloa program may be used as a template to provide services in other locations statewide.

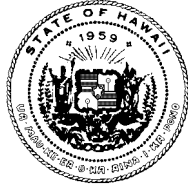
Section 4 of the measure shall exempt the Kauhale pilot program from “all county ordinance, rule, regulation, law of provision in any form that applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purposes of this Act.” The Coordinator notes that exemptions from county permitting may adversely impact efforts by the Kauhale to leverage federal funding, as certain federal funds require compliance with county permitting and zoning requirements. For example, previous projects that utilized exemptions under the Governor’s emergency proclamation to address homelessness faced challenges in demonstrating structures were compliant with County building codes because the normal permitting processes were waived.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the Legislature consider requiring compliance with statutes or ordinances related to issues directly impacting life safety, such as compliance with fire code regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ See Housing Projections & Financial Modeling for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) on Oahu, 2018, Corporation for Supportive Housing: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Hi-ProjectionsFinancial-Modeling.-Focus-on-PSH-only.pdf>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 30, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2112 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. Appropriates funds for the kauhale pilot program.

Housing and homelessness remain the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii. The lack of available and affordable rental inventory is a barrier to homeless individuals and families. This barrier cannot be addressed solely by an increased investment in services such as Housing First or Rapid Re-Housing; it requires significant investment and commitment to build new permanent housing inventory for low-income residents.

DHS is concerned that the proposed appropriation not supplant the funding priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
BONNIE KAHAKUI
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
AND
HOUSING

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 9:00 AM

HB 2112
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chairs Buenaventura and Brower, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Matayoshi, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2112. The State procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill and makes the following recommendations:

The SPO has found that the time taken to procure for goods and services inside of a three-year pilot materially reduces the period in which mission is to be achieved. Therefore, SPO recommends three-year pilots are exempt from the competitive requirement of the procurement code for the period of the three years only.

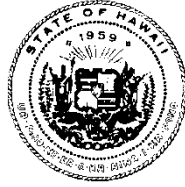
SPO requests addition of verbiage to ensure the exemption allowance is not abused with contracts awarded beyond the scope period of the pilot:

Add to Section 4(a), page 5, line 11 to read:

“Exemption from requirements of chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall apply only during the pilot period. Contracts, entered into during the pilot period, shall not extend beyond the pilot end date of June 30, 2023.”

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
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FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of
H.B. 2112
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HHFDC **offers the following comments** on H.B. 2112, which establishes the Kauhale Pilot program.

H.B. 2112 mandates the Lieutenant Governor to designate the HHFDC and other appropriate State agencies to develop and implement Kauhale projects in at least 6 locations on Oahu, and at least one location in each of the other counties. While HHFDC could assist with the development of the Kauhale sites, we do not have the expertise in evaluating or administering homeless and housing services, or in managing such properties. For clarity, we recommend the bill be amended to identify the appropriate state agency with specific support service and management expertise to administer and oversee the operation of the pilot program.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of state or county land designated for use as a Kauhale to an agency whose mission is more suited to the management of a Kauhale (page 4, lines 3-6). As this is a pilot program, we believe it may be more appropriate for the state or county agency to retain ownership of the public land and lease it to another public or private entity for management and operation.

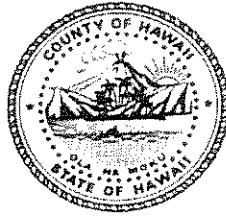
Section 4 of the bill also provides for exemptions from *"...all county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form that applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedure, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act."* We are concerned that exemptions from ministerial approvals, such as licensing and permitting, may impact health and safety.

Finally, the bill requires HHFDC to submit Legislative reports assessing the program in 2021, 2022, and 2023. If HHFDC is to undertake the responsibilities it is given with respect to this new pilot program, the following additional staffing and associated funding will be required: 1.0 FTE Project Manager position and 1.0 FTE Office Assistant III position, and approximately \$200,000 per year in salary and fringe benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2112

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

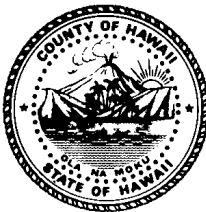
Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Honorable Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee on Humas Services and Homelessness. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill No. 2112.

This measure establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. Appropriates funds for the Kauhale pilot program

The Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports this unique effort to address homelessness in Hawaii. Chronic homelessness is an extremely difficult problem that impacts the health and safety of our communities on the Big Island. Many chronic homeless suffering from mental illness and substance use have repeatedly refused offers for service rejecting existing resources. The Kauhale pilot project, grounded upon the unique culture and values of Hawai'i, promises to be a very attractive alternative to traditional services.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i SUPPORTS the passage of House Bill No. 2112. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

January 30, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2112, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Committee on Housing
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, Chair Brower, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2112, relating to homelessness. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals as well as appropriating funds for the program. Hawai'i continues to have the highest number of homeless individuals in the nation. The Kauhale program presents an opportunity to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are currently unable to do, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of homeless individuals. This program will identify at least six sites on Oahu, with at least one site for each island of Hawai'i. Utilizing the cultural traditional method of kauhale, will maximize the sense of community by recognizing and celebrating an individual's skills, knowledge, and experience with others while fostering a ohana feeling with communities.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, and the Committee on Housing to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



Tuesday, February 4, 2020

House Bill 2112
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Brower, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Housing,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (The Party) **stands in support of HB2112** Relating to Homelessness. This bill establishes the kauhale pilot program which will provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. This bill also appropriates \$20,000,000 for the program at \$25,000 per tiny home. The Party supports this bill as homes, shelters, and other services are in tremendous demand and in very low supply for the homeless communities in the State of Hawai'i.

In 2019, 44.9 in every 10,000 people in Hawai'i were experiencing homelessness according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. The national average was 17 people per 10,000.

California and Hawai'i have the highest rates of homelessness among all individuals (excluding families with children) with 68 and 63 of every 10,000 individuals experiencing homelessness. These rates are 2.5 times the national average rate of 24 per 10,000 individuals. Of Hawai'i's homeless individuals, 75% are unsheltered. Of 1,992 homeless families, 454 were unsheltered, or nearly 23%. Of 222 homeless youth, 149 were unsheltered, or 67%. Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of veteran homelessness in the nation with 39 per 10,000 people, 58% of whom are unsheltered. 36% of Hawai'i's homeless population is chronically homeless, meaning individuals with disabilities who have been homeless for a year or more, or have experienced 12 or more months of homelessness over the last three years. More than 85% of chronically homeless people in Hawai'i are unsheltered. Finally, Hawai'i's chronically homeless population has more than doubled since 2007.

Per O'ahu's 2019 point-in-time count, most of Hawai'i's homeless population lives on O'ahu: more than 4,400 people. More than half of these people are unsheltered, living on sidewalks, in parks and in other public places not meant for human habitation.

O'ahu has purportedly made great strides in reducing family and veteran homelessness: the number of homeless families decreased by 42% from 2015 to 2019 and veteran homelessness declined 18% in that time. The focus now is on the unsheltered population.

We believe HB2112 is also an environmentally sound approach, as it directs the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate with the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) and other appropriate state or county agencies to ensure that infrastructure needs for the kauhale are met while invoking minimal adverse impacts to the environment, including nearshore resources, i.e., corals, reef fish, and shorebirds. This is especially important since the expedited nature of the kauhale pilot project necessitates exemptions of the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F, HRS, and all county ordinances, rules, regulations, laws or provisions that apply to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements which may hinder, delay, or impede the building of the kauhale. This is a

broad exemption which may contradict the very basis behind these ordinances, rules, regulations, laws, and provisions unless health, environmental interests and concerns are fully protected.

Building kahale pilot projects in various counties across the State, six on O'ahu, and one on Hawai'i island, Maui, and Kaua'i, designed to coordinate services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organization to meet the homeless population may be the model to successfully alleviate homelessness on a county-by-county basis.

These smart tiny homes facilities will have common areas and shared facilities, including restrooms with toilets, showers, and other hygiene facilities, and kitchens with areas for food storage and meal preparation to effectively reduce building and maintenance cost and infrastructure needs. These facilities will also provide medical and social support services, and transportation to appointments related to medical care or supportive services that are not available at a kahale. In addition, the pilot project will accommodate individuals coping with and receiving treatment for substance abuse, a community that has been grossly underrepresented. It will also accommodate the chronically homeless, those that are the hardest to home and have remained homeless for a period in excess of one year continuously or cumulatively over a period of three years.

Kauhale services may include, but not limited to, non-emergency medical services, tests for HIV, STD and hepatitis; services for family planning, child and family services, behavioral health, substance abuse, and mental health services; dental care; referral services; shower and laundry services; clean clothing; health insurance enrollment; pharmacy services; "street medicine" for those living on the streets, in parks, along river banks, on beaches, in abandoned buildings; and other assistance services, all of which would help to satisfy very important and critical needs of our homeless populations as required by each of the counties.

For these reasons, including our rising homeless population, skyrocketing housing prices, stagnant middle-class wages, limited land space, increasing crime and threatened safety, we urge you to vote favorably on this bill to require the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate with state and county agencies and developers to develop and implement separate kahale pilot projects in each of the counties to effectively provide needed services and shelter facilities for the homeless population.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/05/23/considered-low-income-one-person-honolulu-according-hud/>

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/01/hawaii-is-no-longer-no-1-for-homelessness-new-york-is-worse/>



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Human Services and Homelessness and
Housing
Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2112, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Brower, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2112, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would, among other things:

- (1) Establish the Kauhale Pilot Program (Program) to provide shelter and various services to homeless individuals, including those coping with substance abuse who are receiving treatment for substance abuse, and the chronically homeless;
- (2) Authorize the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to designate the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and other agencies to develop and implement communities of tiny homes priced at no more than \$25,000 per unit that have common areas that are designed to encourage community engagement with residents, and have shared facilities, including restrooms and kitchens;
- (3) Require the LG to determine the number and locations of each Program site so long as there are a minimum of six sites on Oahu, and one site each on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
- (4) Exempt contracts entered into by agencies participating in the Program from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)), and the Hawaii Purchase of Health and Human Services Law (Chapter 103F, HRS);
- (5) Establish benchmark and reporting requirements to the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Legislatures;
- (6) Provide that the Program cease to exist on June 30, 2023;
- (7) Appropriate \$20,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to be expended by the LG, for the establishment of the Program and expenses related to facility construction, provision of services, staffing, and administrative costs; and

Testimony on House Bill No. 2112
Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

- (8) Direct the LG to transfer all or a portion of the appropriation to the LG's designated agencies for expenditure.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

On November 15, 2019, the first ten tiny homes aimed at housing homeless military veterans were scheduled to go up before the end of the year in Kalaeloa as part of a new, wider approach to quickly develop permanent housing communities for homeless adults who have been living the longest on Oahu's streets. Conceptually based on a very successfully program in Austin, Texas, the small home initiative, more commonly known as the "Kauhale Program", was pushed forward by the LG as a low-cost, quick-implementation method of increasing the housing stock for the most needy in our State.

Based on these efforts, tentative plans have already been made to establish Kauhale sites at:

- A half-acre of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) lands next to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (one of HPCA's members) that would house DHHL beneficiaries;
- Six acres of Board of Land and Natural Resources land next to Waimanalo Beach Park for 40 tiny homes for homeless people from Waimanalo;
- 1.3 acres of state land on Nimitz Highway across from Middle Street for 90 tiny homes for homeless people from the area; and
- A parcel of Hawaii State Hospital land in Kaneohe to build 12 tiny homes for newly released patients at-risk of becoming homeless.

We commend the LG for his commitment to addressing the homeless crisis and join in his efforts to help underprivileged communities throughout our State.

From a technical perspective, we note that there may be questions on whether the LG has sufficient statutory authority to expend or transfer funds in the manner specified in this bill. Further clarification from the Majority Attorney or the Department of the Attorney General might be warranted.

HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-2112

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 2:45:27 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2112

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:48:20 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Partners In Care & Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Kauhale is the only plan that has the potential to create massive amounts of housing at a realistic cost, in a reasonable amount of time.

If properly implemented at a large enough scale, Kauhale could make Hawaii the first State to win the war on homelessness.

We will never end homelessness unless we create enough housing for everyone in need. It's that simple. Unless you willing to appropriate over three billion dollars to build enough high-rise apartments, the only way out of this mess is to build low cost, single story modular housing, such as the ones proposed for Kauhale Villages. The Kauhale pilot will demonstrate it's effectiveness, while enabling the program to refine its' practices and procedures. Then, it should be implemented at a scale calculated to end the homeless crisis in Hawaii..

Service utilization is a much better way to estimate the homeless population than the point in time count. There are probably 15,000 homeless in Hawaii. That means we have a shortage of roughly 10,000 units of subsidized housing for the homeless. It costs a minimum of \$300,000 per unit to build high rise apartments. We can't rent our way out of this shortage either. Rents range from \$1000 to \$1500 per unit, and many landlords won't rent to homeless tenants. Conversely, the single-story modular homes proposed for Kauhale villages would run about \$20,000 per unit. **That means you could build 10,000 Kauhale units for about twice of what it costs to treat unsheltered homeless in the Queens emergency room each year!**

Seattle, Austin Texas, and many other jurisdictions have begun creating homeless villages using tiny homes and other low-cost modular dwellings, at a fraction of what it costs to build high rise apartments. The model works. Would it be better to give everyone in need a free high rise apartment? Sure. But we all know that's not going to happen. So let's do what we can, instead of incrementally increasing the inventory of apartments, while 15,000 people have nowhere to live.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2112: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Tom Brower, Chair; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Homelessness, and Housing
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 9:00 AM; CR 423**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Brower, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Homelessness, and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 2112, which establishes the Kauhale Pilot Program to provide shelter and services to chronically homeless individuals. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. **We support this bill as part of the shared priorities of all Hawaii counties, PIC and the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

CCH supports \$20 million for the Kauhale Program, as long as this does not impact on the funding for other existing programs/services for the homeless. Hawaii has established a range of proven services that place over 7,000 people/year back into permanent housing, increasing its percentage of people getting into permanent housing by 73% between 2016 and 2019. Yet Hawaii remains 2nd in the nation for per capita homeless. We need to scale up successful programs and start new innovative ones to dramatically reduce homelessness.

The Kauhale Project is a new innovative tool to end homelessness. The villages will provide cost-effective and culturally relevant permanent housing for hard to house chronic homeless people. Housing First programs have proven that this population can successfully remain housed with supportive services. Kauhale builds on the Housing First model, offering these supportive social services, but also creating a community where residents can support each other, gain skills and feel empowered. The Kauhale model has already developed much community support with businesses and construction companies willing to donate substantial labor and materials to build these permanent housing units. This makes construction extremely cost-effective, estimated to be less than \$25,000 per unit. Ending homelessness requires a community wide effort. The Kauhale model is uniquely designed to enhance this.

Having a home is more than a house; it is being part of a neighborhood and community. We urge your support for the Kauhale Pilot Program. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2112: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
 FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
 Hearing: Tuesday 2/4/20, 9:00am, Room 423

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 2112, which would appropriate \$20 million to establish the Kauhale pilot program. The Kauhale program would create communal living spaces with shared or private tiny homes valued at no more than \$25,000 each, and provide access to social and medical services, including mental health and addiction support, thereby developing a sustainable model to take care of our low-income neighbors that the economy and housing market have left behind.

In Hawai‘i, a person working full-time at minimum wage earns \$1,616 per month, while fair market rent for a studio apartment is \$1,288. This means that a person working **full-time spends 80% of their income on housing, close to 3 times the HUD guideline for affordability, leaving only \$328 per month for food, transportation, clothing, household supplies, medical bills, retirement savings, loans, childcare, and emergency expenses.** It’s even worse for those who must rely entirely on SSI, as their income is only \$771 a month. With sky-high rents and stagnant wages, it’s no wonder our agency has seen a drastic increase in people becoming homeless for the first time, and a growing number of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households teetering on the brink of destitution.

Unless we take aggressive action to fight this inequality from all sides, we will continue to see our local people descend into poverty, and the ones who will suffer the most are those who are already the most vulnerable, including native Hawaiians, single moms, students, and kūpuna on fixed incomes. Establishing the Kauhale program is one such way we can work to ensure we protect our state’s most vulnerable residents.

Shannon, a Hawai‘i Island resident, shared the story of a neighbor who could have benefitted from the Kauhale program.

“There was an elderly man sleeping near the road next to his wheelchair. I stopped to see what he needed, and found out he was 59 years old, blind, and disabled. He said he couldn't afford his diabetes meds so the hospital had to cut his toe off (which was wrapped up in bandages) and now he was back out on the streets because there was no room to put him up anywhere. I ran home to get him some food, water, an umbrella and some medical supplies, and brought them back to him. I checked on him a couple of days later and he was in even more dire straits. His foot bandage was filthy and ragged.

“I went home to call someone to come help him--at least clean up his amputated toe and give him new bandages! I was on the phone for hours and couldn't find any social service agency that could help. I finally got a hold of someone at Hope Services and insisted that something be done for this guy ASAP--before he lost his whole leg from infection.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.
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"I went down the next day to see if 'John' was still there - and he was gone. I'm hoping someone figured out how to help him. It was disgusting to think a blind & disabled kūpuna could just be dumped onto the street like trash.

Unfortunately, John's story is not uncommon. Our Outreach and Street Medicine teams frequently interact with people whose health rapidly deteriorates due to a lack of stable housing, sanitation, and access to the services they need. Instead of waiting until people like John end up on the street in the midst of medical catastrophe, it makes much more sense to avert these crises before they start. I urge you to **vote yes on HB 2112** to establish the Kauhale pilot program, and provide stable and safe homes where people like John will have access to the care they need. Let's work together to provide for the dignity of ALL people in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Brandee Menino
Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:53:55 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nani Medeiros	HomeAid Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:04:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendi M Okazaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of the Kauhale program.

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:00:41 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Many states such as Florida and Texas, require people to have been a state resident with a state ID for the period of one year prior to being able to apply for benefits. This would be a great idea to slow the homeless migration to Hawai'i during the winter months. However, regarding this bill, we need services for our locally grown and disenfranchised population. The best thing we can do with the out-of-state homeless, is to send them to another Commonwealth.

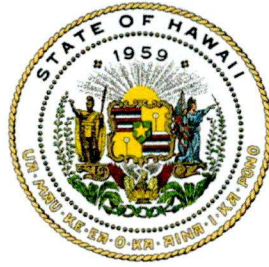
HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:46:08 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alysa Lavoie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

Testimony of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Before the
House Committees on Human Services & Homelessness, Housing and Finance
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423
On the following measure:
H.B. 2112 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chairs Buenaventura, Brower and Luke, Vice Chairs Nakamura, Matayoshi and Cullen, and members of the House Committees on Human Services & Homelessness, Housing and Finance:

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor **SUPPORTS** H.B. 2112 which appropriates funds for the Kauhale pilot program to provide permanent housing and certain supportive services to people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Homelessness is a public health crisis in Hawaii, and the need for permanent housing specifically for those experiencing chronic homelessness is immediate. Kauhale is modeled after successful programs across the United States and already has the support of various public and private partners. We do expect this bill will evolve as the session moves forward and, as it does, we believe it should ultimately provide legislative resources and support to construct and operate Kauhale in various regions across the state. We respectfully ask that the Legislature support the Kauhale approach as an additional way to address the homeless crisis in our State.

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2112

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, & Members of the
House Human Services & Homelessness Committee
Chair Brower, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, & Members of the
House Housing Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development, & Policy Manager

DATE: February 4, 2020 (9:00 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2112, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals.

[As noted by Lt. Governor Josh Green](#), "the Kauhale concept is a traditional, cultural model of housing consisting of tiny homes clusters and communal areas for restrooms, cooking, and gathering. Kauhale are meant to foster a sense of community and ownership among their formerly homeless residents."

The Kauhale model will help move chronically unsheltered persons, particularly those from the Native Hawaiian community in designated geographic areas, to permanent supportive housing. It will feature ultra-low-cost units (\$25,000 est.) in a culturally relevant village setting with shared kitchen and restroom facilities on state-owned lands. The model, currently in operation at [Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae](#), supports self-government and develops leadership and empowerment skills among residents. Supportive social services, including treatment for behavioral health conditions and employment training, can be more effectively delivered in a context where participants have relatively stable shelter and nutritional access.

HHRC is a member of [Partners in Care](#) (PIC), a coalition of organizations from nonprofit homeless providers, government stakeholders, private businesses, community advocates,

public housing agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. PIC is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's Continuum of Care for homeless persons.

HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems related to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

We support legislative efforts to ameliorate Hawaii's housing crisis. Affording more Kauhale-style homes will help alleviate some of the obstacles faced by Hawaii residents who are struggling to procure or maintain adequate housing in the current rental housing market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important reform measure.

LATE

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:08:28 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick F. Hurney	Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from Big Island,

I strongly support HB 2112 because we need more support for our over burdened homeless system.

Mahalo

Patrick Hurney

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:50:18 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james koshiba	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

From: James Koshiba

Re: Support for HB2112

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Thielen, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Inouye and Committee Members. My names is James Koshiba and I am an organizer of Hui Aloha - a volunteer group that works to build community with houseless (aka homeless) residents in different areas of Oahu, including Waimanalo, Kakaako-Ala Moana, and Waianae. I am also a public policy researcher and consultant. In that capacity I have consulted on housing and homelessness policies, and have helped to form the Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition. I am testifying as an individual, but wanted to share these affiliations so that the Members know the kinds of knowledge and experiences that inform my testimony.

I support HB2112, because it has the potential to provide a new form of affordable housing, built and operated at lower cost than other affordable housing or shelter options.

Several recently-built affordable housing projects are charging rent ranging from \$700 to \$1200 per month in order to recoup development costs (more than \$300,000 per unit to build, on average) and cover ongoing operating expenses like security, maintenance, grounds-keeping, and on-site programs. While these rents are below market rate, they are still unaffordable to many lower-income residents, and certainly unaffordable to those experiencing homelessness.

The communal living proposed in Kauhale offers an alternative. It reduces development costs because expensive items like bathrooms, kitchens, and related infrastructure are consolidated and shared. Communal living can also lower operating costs because a sense of community fosters participation in activities such as neighborhood watches, neighborhood cleanups, and neighborhood gardening/grounds-keeping – reducing the need for paid services. These cost savings make it possible to charge lower rents to residents.

The unique advantage and potential offered by the Kauhale model therefore depends upon its ability to foster a sense of community. Shared kitchens, restrooms, and

gathering space (all currently promoted in the bill) are important physical conditions for community-building. But, physical conditions are not enough. People also need to be in a place long enough to form relationships, and need to be offered opportunities to take responsibility for their community.

In order to maximize the community-building potential of Kauhale, I recommend the bill make it explicit that the legislature's intent is for Kauhale to be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents. Specifically, I suggest the following amendments:

SECTION 1, Paragraphs 3 & 4

The legislature also finds that the kauhale model has the potential to serve homeless individuals in a way that existing programs are currently unable to, **by using communal living to make housing more affordable and to improve** ~~with the goal of improving~~ the health and well-being of homeless individuals. **The legislature intends that Kauhale be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents.**

The purpose of this Act is to establish the kauhale pilot program to provide ~~shelter~~ **long-term housing** and other services to homeless individuals.

SECTION 3 (a) There is established the kauhale pilot program to

provide ~~shelter~~ **long term housing** and certain services to homeless individuals. A kauhale shall:

- (1) Consist of tiny homes priced at no more than \$25,000 per unit;
- (2) Have common areas that are designed to encourage community engagement with residents;
- (3) Have shared facilities, including restrooms and kitchens, to **promote shared responsibility** and reduce cost and infrastructure needs;
- (4) Accept residents coping with substance abuse who are receiving treatment for substance abuse; and
- (5) House residents that are chronically homeless, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (6) Allow residents to form community associations to share responsibility for management and improvements of the kauhale**

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba

james.koshiba@gmail.com

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:45:24 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Petty	Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Tony Petty and I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

For more than a year, our group of houseless individuals has been working to build community among houseless people in our area, and with the wider community of Waimanalo. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, attended Neighborhood Board meetings, and did our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. I believe a Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of Aina O Ke Akua because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo. We have family in Waimanalo and go to church, work, or schools nearby; our support system is in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I also ask that you to take steps to ensure that Kauhale funding be used only for permanent housing and not for temporary shelters or transitional housing. There are many options for temporary help, and not enough permanent homes for houseless people.

Mahalo.

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:55:36 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roz Sorgent	Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Roz Sorgent. I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

We have been working to build community among houseless people in our area for over a year. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, regularly attend Neighborhood Board Meetings, and have done our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. I believe a Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of our group because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo. We have family in Waimanalo and go to church, work, or schools nearby; our support system is in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I ask you to take steps to ensure that the bill makes clear that Kauhale funding cannot be used for temporary shelters or transitional housing. Any spending on Kauhale should be to provide a village of truly affordable, permanent homes for people.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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 IN SUPPORT OF HB 2112

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, & Members of the House Human Services & Homelessness Committee Chair Brower, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, & Members of the House Housing Committee

FROM: Partners in Care

DATE: February 4, 2020 (9:00 AM)

LATE

Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations, **strongly supports this bill as part of the shared priorities of all Hawaii counties, PIC and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2112, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals. The need for permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals is well documented and does not need to be reiterated here. But the Kauhale housing project is uniquely designed to be successful because:

- It provides housing in a culturally relevant village setting
- It supports self-government, modeled on the Pu'uhonua o Waianae at the Waianae Board Harbor, enabling residents to support each other, develop leadership skills and gain a sense of self-empowerment
- It is a sustainable business model in that these pilots will be located on State lands and thus there won't be major capital expenditures for land
- It is comprised of extremely cost-effective structures, estimated to be less than \$25,000 each, because substantial time and materials will be donated
- Supportive social services will be offered, such as case management, employment training, referral to substance abuse treatment, etc., thus enhancing successful outcomes for the individuals living there

Kauhale is an innovative tool in the homeless prevention toolbox. It is a type of Housing First (which is a well documented successful method of housing homeless individuals) in that it will provide permanent housing and social services to chronically homeless individuals. However, it has the important added advantage of providing a community of support and empowerment. Many people experiencing homelessness have a hard time leaving the feeling of community they have in living among other homeless folks.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gavin Thornton, Advocacy Chair, Partners in Care at gavin@hiappleseed.org. We urge you to support this innovative and cost-effective approach to housing our most vulnerable chronically ill individuals.

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:10:43 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Weji Kahawai	Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Louise Weji Kahawai and I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

We have been working to build community among houseless people in our area for over a year. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, attended Neighborhood Board meetings, and done our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park. This work continues today.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. A Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of our group because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo -- with family, work, church, school, and a support system in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I ask you to take steps to ensure that the bill makes clear that Kauhale funding cannot be used for temporary shelters or transitional housing, but only for permanent housing. There are plenty of transitional or emergency options for our people. What is lacking is permanent homes.

Mahalo

LATE

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:37:06 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LUCIEN WONG	HomeAid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Homelessness is a growing problem that needs to addressed.

LATE

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:20:42 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Carney	HomeAid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

As a member of the Board of HomeAid Hawaii I strongly support HB 2112 as another step in helping to house and provide services to our homeless population.

Kevin Carney

LATE

Testimony in Support of HB2112: Relating to Homelessness

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, & Members of the House Human Services & Homelessness Committee Chair Brower, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, & Members of the House Housing Committee

FROM: Marya Grambs, member, board of directors, **Partners in Care** and member, Advisory Council, **PHOCUSED** (Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly and Disabled)

DATE: February 4, 2020 (9:00 AM)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of this bill**, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide permanent housing and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals in a self-governing village – a kind of “Housing First Plus” model.

The Kauhale project offers a unique and cutting-edge option for ending homelessness – that is, a village of tiny homes for chronically homeless individuals -- individuals who have been homeless for a year or more (or several times within three years) and have at least one disabling condition, such as medical disability, mental illness, or substance use disorder; they constitute a population which is very difficult to place.

What makes this approach particularly unique is that the villages are designed for those currently residing in a particular area. For example, the Waimanalo Kauhale will be intended for the homeless on the Windward side. Individuals from the Kakaako encampment are working with the Lieutenant Governor to develop one in central Oahu. Basically, representatives from the homeless communities and from the general community at large are included in the planning, design, and rule-making for the Kauhale, thus ensuring that the resulting village will have the commitment and investment of the individuals living there and acceptance from the surrounding area.

Medical and social services will be available and the community will be designed as a self-governing one, thereby offering a setting in which residents feel a true sense of community and have opportunities for self empowerment and leadership. Moreover, because skills and materials are donated to build the tiny houses, and they will be situated on state land, the program is financially sustainable.

We urge you to pass HB2112, and enable Hawaii to embark on this - a truly innovative approach which is being designed carefully, thoughtfully, and is benefiting from what we have learned here through trial and error over many years of addressing homelessness – as well as borrowing a successful model from Austin, Texas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-2112

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:31:21 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Kawano-Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT for HB2112

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the House Human Services & Homelessness Committee Aloha Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the House Housing Committee,

My name is Cathy Kawano-Ching and I am a member of Hui Aloha - a volunteer group that works to build connections between people in our communities. Much of our learning and work is with houseless (aka homeless) residents in different areas of Oahu, including Waimanalo, Kakaako-Ala Moana, Kapahulu and Waianae

I support HB2112 because it has the potential to provide a new form of affordable housing, built and operated at lower cost than other affordable housing or shelter options.

Many affordable housing projects charge rents that are below market rate and are still unaffordable to many lower-income residents, and certainly unaffordable to those experiencing homelessness.

The unique advantage and potential offered by the Kauhale model depends upon its ability to foster a sense of community. Shared kitchens, restrooms, and gathering space (all currently promoted in the bill) are important physical conditions for community-building. But physical conditions are not enough. People also need to be in a place long enough to form relationships and need opportunities to take responsibility for their community.

In order to maximize the community-building potential of Kauhale, I recommend the bill include the legislature's intent for Kauhale to be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents, including creating permanent homes for people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Cathy Kawano-Ching

ckawanoching@gmail.com

