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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1662

February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1662 adds a new section to Chapter 346, HRS, to: 1) establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse (SHSHDC) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH); and 2) set reporting requirements for an annual report to be submitted by the GCH to the Legislature on the homelessness data collected by the SHSHDC. The bill also appropriates \$300,000 in general funds in FY 23 to DHS for the establishment of the SHSHDC.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on
Health, Human Services, & Homelessness**

February 10, 2022

H.B. No. 1662: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tan, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports H.B. No. 1662.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse to be administered by the governor’s coordinator on homelessness.

An informal group brought together by the Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki and identified as the Ending Homelessness Group (“EHG”), representing twenty-plus representatives from eleven state, county, and non-profit agencies (including the Office of the Public Defender), has been meeting since June 2021 to discuss problems and difficulties in ending (or at least reducing) homelessness and in finding solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The EHG came up with many different proposals to meet gaps in housing, enforcement, and treatment/system flow. One such solution is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse to be administered by the governor’s coordinator on homelessness.

Currently the State lacks a comprehensive and coordinated data system that tracks data related to homelessness. Various State agencies, including the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, and the Judiciary, as well as county agencies, maintain data relating to homelessness. Moreover, the two HUD-funded programs responsible for collecting data on the homeless, administering federal funding, and overseeing the coordinated entry system for homeless resources – Partners in Care (Oahu) and Bridging the Gap (Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kauai) – do not share their client-level data between themselves nor with the State and county agencies.

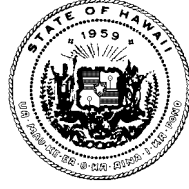
The data relating to homelessness are only shared between governmental agencies and other organizations on a case-by-case basis to accomplish specific tasks. The lack of data sharing among the agencies is problematic; if they were linked, more

effective use of limited resources could identify and increase those services, treatment, and housing, and also evaluate the effectiveness of providers in reducing homelessness.

A central statewide shared homelessness information system can be used to accomplish the following: report on the status of the homeless; develop policy and program solutions; measure the effectiveness of programs in ending homelessness; advocate for homeless services and housing needs; identify and report on gaps where homelessness services, shelter, or housing are required; determine the availability of services at any point-in-time to identify appropriate services, shelter, or housing available to assist persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk individuals; obtain federal, state, local and private funds to develop and to sustain long term solutions to house the homeless; and inform policymakers on where funding may be appropriated to address those gaps.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1662 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent, defers to the Department of Budget & Finance, and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Makes an appropriation.

We agree that understanding homeless data is fundamental to strategically addressing homelessness in Hawaii. Other significant priorities that require investment are increasing available low-income housing statewide and predictable funding.

As the preamble described, there are multiple systems of homeless services information primarily based on the source of funding. Currently, the website maintained by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is the primary resource for information on homelessness and services in Hawaii. The Governor's Coordinator draws available information from multiple systems. See <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>.

Also mentioned in the preamble, for communities to receive federal funds, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to maintain the

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS collects client-level data and data on housing and services to homeless individuals, families, and persons at risk of homelessness. The State has two continua of care (CoC), Partners In Care (PIC) on Oahu and Bridging the Gap (BTG) for neighbor islands, and each CoC maintains its HMIS. Additionally, other government agencies may request data or request that its data be included in the HMIS. However, each entity must follow the CoC's policy and procedure to access the HMIS. Currently, with two HMIS, DHS submits a request for the data to each CoC individually, merges the resulting data sets, and then evaluates the merged data set to obtain the desired information.

To maximize resources, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requires its homeless service providers to input relevant data into the respective HMIS as part of its contract provisions. DHS also includes performance measures in each contract. Since CoC providers also enter federally funded services data into HMIS, CoC HMIS has the most comprehensive information from multiple funding streams. Previously, when there was only one statewide HMIS, DHS provided funds to support the HMIS and training for service providers to improve data quality and timeliness. However, DHS no longer provides funds for the maintenance of either HMIS.

To make the data public-facing, HPO worked with BTG to develop data dashboards on its website with real-time data (see <https://www.btghawaii.org/>), and PIC also posts real-time data on its website (see <https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/>). In addition, the City & County of Honolulu maintains its website that links to Oahu-related information (see <https://www.honolulu.gov/housing/homelessness.html>).

HPO is working with the CoCs to develop statewide dashboards, reports, and monitoring tools of real-time data. However, this data dashboard would be limited to HPO funded programs; it will not include other executive branch programs or services, federally funded programs, county programs, or programs of the Judiciary.

Currently, the most comprehensive reports on homeless services, resources, and performance measures are submitted to the Legislature by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (see https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-29-21_CB_Section-346-381_HICH-Part-1-Act-209-2018_Ohana-Zones-combined.GCH-signed.pdf)

and the DHS HPO's report on Housing First (see, https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-28-21_CB_Section-346-378_Housing-First-combined-signed.pdf).

Previously, the neighbor island CoC BTG provided federal funding for DHS to contract the evaluation of statewide homeless services utilization data. While the homeless services utilization reports were insightful, the reports were not as helpful as real-time data. The evaluated data were more than a year old when the reports were issued. The previous homeless services utilization and other reports that address homelessness in Hawaii are available at <https://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/blog-category/homelessness?combine=&page=0>.

The Legislature may want to consider this one-time appropriation of \$300,000 to contract project management services to establish improved data sharing protocols or analytic capabilities between existing government and non-government entities. To maintain a comprehensive "data clearinghouse," future budget requests for funds for permanent staff and administrative costs will be necessary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai`i

February 10, 2022

RE: H.B. 1662; RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 1662 with comments.

With 46 out of every 10,000 people in Hawai`i being reported as homeless--one of the highest rates in the nation--and 70% of our homeless individuals living in unsheltered locations, our State is clearly in a dire situation.¹ Indeed, homelessness not only presents a direct risk to the health and safety of affected individuals, it also serves as an added stressor and/or contributing factor in many crimes.

To pursue the most effective, data-driven initiatives to address homelessness, the Department strongly agrees that Hawaii needs a complete and accurate database of information, which can only be accomplished through a coordinated effort between government agencies and community organizations. Although the Department greatly appreciates the Legislature's support and resources for a comprehensive data clearinghouse to address data collection on homelessness, we defer to the Department of Human Services and other stakeholders as to the best way to accomplish this goal, which may include appropriating money to contract project management services/consultants to increase data sharing between government and non-government agencies.

¹ "2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), dated March 18, 2021. Available online at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>; last accessed January 25, 2022.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 1662 with comments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam
Vice Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Connie Mitchell MS, APRN, BC, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services

SUBJECT: H.B. 1662 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: February 10, 2022, 9:00 am Via Videoconference, State Capitol

POSITION: IHS supports the passing of HB1162 with comments on privacy concerns.

IHS, Institute for Human Services, strongly supports the creation of a statewide homelessness, shelter and housing data clearinghouse. This database would improve interagency communication and allow for greater and more timely and coordinated assistance for homeless individuals.

Homeless individuals are often high utilizers of city, state, emergency and non-profit resources. Currently homeless individuals are added to the State's HMIS (homeless management information system) database when they consent to homeless services, however other utilized services are not tracked in the same place. Those arrested are added to the DPS database. Those who call 911, or seek care in emergency rooms are added to another, and so on... This practice limits the wrap-around care that is available to individuals via the existing continua of care and limits communication and coordination among care providers about the level and type of care needed.

By having a shared system, emergency services would be able to enter individuals into HMIS to make homeless services and programs more accessible to persons who are eligible, and even find out information from previous services that can help direct treatment at the point-in-time that information is most needed or helpful to avoid duplication of services or delivering interventions that might be counterproductive. Service providers and first responders could find assigned case managers, if one exists, and also track whether they have recently stayed in a shelter or accessed other medical or behavioral health resources.

Our State and Counties fund so many services delivered to persons experiencing homelessness. It is important to recognize that all services funded by taxpayers deserve to be coordinated with the data management technology available today. We recognize there are concerns for protection of privacy for individuals, as the database would be accessed by more than service providers who currently use the HMIS system. However, the information could still be protected and used within the constraints of responsibly planning and establishing heavy penalties for abuse of personal information not for the purpose of stabilizing and serving individuals. Moreover, within this system there is non-identifiable data that could be incredibly





The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

valuable for the purposes of planning and allocation of resources to serve at-risk, homeless and chronically homeless individuals.

To allay anxiety related to protecting personal information, **we suggest the bill include delegating the task of identifying who would have access to this database to the Hawaii Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness. They could list government agencies along with Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap Continuums of Care.** The facilitator would be HICH and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness office as the database administrator. Currently, PIC and BTG separately conduct training and vetting of purpose/intention for access and use of the separate Homeless Management of Information Systems. Being able to combine data from the two systems could assist the HICH with important planning and evaluation data.

Thank you.



HB-1662

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:25:27 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Yuan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to support HB1662 Relating to Homelessness, which proposes the establishment of a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse. I have been studying homelessness in Hawaii for over 15 years. I can attest that, while homeless service and housing data are currently available and valuable, it is not sufficient to guide the development of solutions for the complex problem of homelessness.

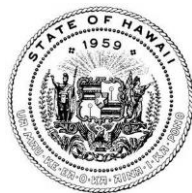
People who experience homelessness, especially chronic homelessness, often interact with other systems such as healthcare, criminal justice, education, social service, etc. A data clearinghouse would allow the sharing of critical data for understanding the inflow and outflow of the homeless service system, identifying programs and solutions that work, and the cost and cost benefits of these solutions.

Currently, data critical for ending homelessness is fragmented, captured (or not) by various systems, departments, and organizations that serve or interact with people experiencing homelessness. A data clearinghouse would facilitate the collection and standardization of data that allows long-term tracking of performance measures. The functions of the clearinghouse should include the development and implementation of procedures to protect data privacy and confidentiality and the establishment of agreement among participating parties on appropriate use and access of data.

HB1662 will appropriate funding to coordinate efforts and secure data and research expertise for establishing a data clearinghouse. The need for comprehensive data is urgent. This bill requires the governor's coordinator on homelessness to submit a report on the long-term operation of the data clearinghouse, allowing all homeless-solution partners to participate in shaping the development of the clearinghouse that would benefit a statewide effort to end homelessness.

I urge you to support HB1662 to establish a data clearinghouse and appropriate funds for FY2023. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

February 10, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1662 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure, respectfully offers comments, and requests clarification regarding the intent of the statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Specifically, the bill requires the Coordinator to submit annual reports to the legislature regarding various performance metrics related to the State's efforts to reduce homelessness. The bill makes an appropriation of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment of the clearinghouse.

The Coordinator agrees that utilization and access of data is critical to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to reduce homelessness statewide. In addition, accessible real-time data regarding shelter inventory and housing supports the work of frontline homeless service providers to provide options for individuals experiencing homelessness. The importance of data related to homelessness is reflected in State law. Specifically, section 346-381 (b) (5), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires that the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) "assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information to support policy development and track outcomes."

The HICH, which is a 27-member statewide advisory council chaired by the Coordinator, regularly reviews data regarding homelessness systems performance metrics at its quarterly meetings. The data reviewed by the HICH includes: 1) Statewide Point in Time (PIT) count data; 2) Statewide Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data; 3) The percentage of individuals exiting a homeless program into permanent housing; and 4) Length of stay in homeless emergency and transitional shelters. The data is posted online at <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>. In addition to the four key performance metrics, the website includes statewide fiscal mapping data of federal, state, and local funding sources for homelessness; homeless student enrollment data provided by the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE); and information relating to the federal funding administered through the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.

The HICH also reports annually to the Governor, the legislature, and the Mayor of each county regarding the progress of activities, including an overview of the homelessness system and system performance metrics as required by statute.¹ The annual report utilizes data from multiple sources, including the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); PIT count; HIC; and DOE McKinney-Vento Act data. The [most recent report](#) also reviewed data related to SNAP and Medicaid enrollment, and Emergency Rent Assistance (ERA) utilization to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on homelessness. In addition, the recent report included projections for supportive and special needs housing provided by the [Corporation for Supportive Housing \(CSH\)](#) and the Department of Health (DOH).

The Coordinator has engaged in numerous other efforts to utilize data to strengthen local efforts to reduce homelessness. For example, the Coordinator and staff produce a [Daily Emergency Shelter Vacancy List](#) that includes vacancy data from both government and privately funded emergency shelters statewide.² In addition, the Coordinator worked together with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Oahu CoC to facilitate a data sharing agreement to identify homeless native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the DHHL wait list that were encountered in the PIT count.

¹ Annual reports, as well as other reports presented at the regular meetings of the HICH, are compiled at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich/hich-reports/>.

² The shelter vacancy report is compiled and e-mailed to stakeholders Monday to Friday, and available online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/daily-emergency-shelter-vacancy/>.

A statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse will potentially enhance the current efforts of the HICH and Coordinator to reduce homelessness statewide. However, if this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests clarification on whether the statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse is a data system that will pull client-level data from existing databases (e.g., HMIS, etc.) or if the intent is to compile existing publicly available aggregate data from other government entities (e.g., DHS, DOH, DOE, Judiciary, counties, etc.) to produce a comprehensive written report and analysis of data to the Legislature. If the intent is the former, additional funding and consultation with the State Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and Department of the Attorney General may be required to address concerns related to data security and client consent. If the intent is the latter, the report may be duplicative of the existing annual report required by section 346-381, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1662

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:34:48 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara DeBaryshe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

I strongly support HB 1662, relating to a database on persons experiencing homelessness.

Every person in Hawaii has witnessed the devastation associated with homelessness in our state. As a researcher, I understand the need for comprehensive, person-level data that can be linked across service systems while still maintaining the crucial privacy and dignity of individuals.

The proposed data system will allow state agencies to answer key questions about service use, cost, and outcomes for vulnerable persons. We need these data to know whether our policies and programs are working. The database will support the excellent work of Partners in Care, Bridging the Gap, and the health and human services community. It also supports the larger 'Oahan Nui initiative to provide an integrated and responsive approach to health and human services.

One suggestion is to include early childhood data in the new system (see [Caring for our Keiki](#)). One in 30 of our keiki under age six experience homelessness. We need to know more about their health and developmental status, enrollment in high-quality early care and education, and access to safe and stable living arrangements. I also urge the state define homelessness per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which includes those in doubled-up situations, aka the hidden homeless.

Thank you for your leadership in making this database possible.