

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 24, 2022, 12:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1749, H.D. 1  
Relating to Housing

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would establish a Supportive Housing Task Force charged with developing a new monitoring and forecasting system and a roadmap for implementing supportive housing, educating developers on supportive housing, and identifying financing opportunities for supportive housing. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but offers **comments and an amendment** regarding the exemption of the proposed Task Force from part I of chapter 92, HRS, the Sunshine Law, at bill page 7, lines 9-11.

The bill does not explain why a complete exemption from the Sunshine Law is necessary for the Task Force. The Task Force is charged with developing policy and goals for supportive housing, identifying funding sources, and developing best practices, all of which are likely to be of public interest, particularly to those directly affected by or with an interest in the issue of providing supportive housing for individuals needing that support, and **the proposed exemption would cut off access to this policymaking process for the interested members of the public.** In the absence of any justification for exempting this group from the Sunshine Law's requirements, **OIP recommends that the exemption at page 7, lines 9-11, be deleted from this bill.** However, if there are reasons not explained

House Committee on Finance  
February 24, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

in the bill why full compliance with the Sunshine Law would be problematic for this group, **OIP would be happy to work with interested parties on a permitted interaction or other partial exception to the Sunshine Law's usual requirements tailored to the specific problems the group anticipates.**

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 24, 2022

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Luke and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1749 HD1 Relating to Housing

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1749 HD1** which establishes and appropriates funds for a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs in the State.

Many individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) are a part of our low-income community. The only residential option they can afford and find is typically on Oahu in a licensed or certified home (such as an Adult Foster Home or a Residential Care home) with individuals they may have never met or share no common interests with. For those who do not want to live in such an environment, they become homeless or are bounced around from one emergency shelter to another.

We are in support of a task force that will address the supportive housing needs in each county.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1749 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

February 24, 2022

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1749 HD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 12:30 p.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure and respectfully offers comments. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget request.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish and appropriate funds for a supportive housing task force to develop a new monitoring and forecasting system, bring stakeholders together to develop a roadmap for implementing supportive housing, address financing opportunities, bridge housing developers with supportive housing service providers, and develop best practices for supportive housing in the State.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments made by the House Committee on Housing to amend the composition of the Supportive Housing Task Force to include the Executive Directors of Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap Hawaii and enabling all task force members to select designees to serve in their absence.

The Coordinator recognizes the critical need to scale supportive housing inventory statewide. Supportive housing offers long-term housing with integrated wraparound social services for individuals with acute needs and may be provided either through site-based projects or utilizing a scattered-site voucher system. Importantly, the Corporation for

Supportive Housing (CSH) estimate of supportive housing units described in the preamble is not limited only to units for homeless or chronically homeless individuals. For example, the CSH data includes unit estimates for other populations that may not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homelessness (e.g., individuals exiting correctional facilities, and individuals with severe mental illness or developmental disability stepping down from a higher level of care in an institutional setting, etc.).

Currently, there is limited inventory of housing with social service supports for individuals exiting institutional settings who are not literally homeless. The lack of supportive housing specifically for individuals exiting the mental health and criminal justice systems places strain on the homelessness system. For example, as of December 2021, the homelessness system identified 2,100 homeless individuals and 542 families participating in the Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System and on the By Name List for housing.<sup>1</sup> The proposed task force will address increase both the number and diversity of supportive housing units by assembling key stakeholders to assess the current supportive housing system, estimating the number of units needed for different sub-populations, and developing a plan for financing and construction of units statewide.

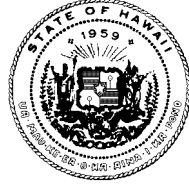
Regarding the task force, the Coordinator acknowledges the need to have representation both from agencies with an understanding of how to provide and finance social services, as well as agencies familiar with housing development and construction financing. In addition, the Coordinator appreciates the inclusion of the four counties, which oversee planning and zoning locally and administer housing resources such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Act funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see page 3 of DHS Annual Housing First report at: [http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-28-21\\_CB\\_Section-346-378\\_Housing-First-combined-signed.pdf](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-28-21_CB_Section-346-378_Housing-First-combined-signed.pdf)

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 23, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1749 HD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Hearing: February 24, 2022, 12:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, requests amendments, and provides comments. The Department respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purposes of the bill are to establish and appropriate funds for a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs in the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1) The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Amending the composition of the Supportive Housing Task Force to include the Executive Directors of Partners In Care and Bridging the Gap Hawaii, and enabling all task force members to select designees to serve in their absence;
- (2) Removing as unnecessary language exempting task force members from the financial interests disclosure requirements under the State Ethics Code, as the State Ethics Commission's longstanding practice is to exclude activities of task force members from the general provisions of the Code;
- (3) Exempting the task force from the Sunshine Law, rather than the entirety of the State's law governing public agency meetings and records;
- (4) Specifying that the appropriation in this measure includes funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) planner or specialist position;

- (5) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department agrees that there needs to be a concerted effort by the government to create housing inventory for low-income residents, especially for those who require supportive services, as the free market is not generating the needed inventory despite the need.

The Department respectfully requests that designees from the named programs be allowed to serve on the task force. The designee will have hands-on subject matter expertise regarding available homeless and Medicaid services. Also, note that these DHS programs do not engage in brick and mortar capital improvement projects and will not have the necessary knowledge regarding capital improvements or housing development. The Legislature may want to consider encouraging professionals with working knowledge of public finance or development to join this very important task force.

Support for the task force should include at least a 1 FTE planner or specialist position and funds for administrative expenses, and we appreciate the HD1 amendments for including this position and funds. However, we ask that these appropriations not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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 FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1749, H.D. 1

**February 24, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HOUSING

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

House Bill No. 1749, H.D. 1: 1) establishes a supportive housing task force within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a period of two years; 2) sets the responsibilities of the task force; 3) sets membership appointment requirements for the task force; 4) provides the task force authority to meet virtually and exemption from Part I of Chapter 92, HRS; and 5) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 to provide administrative support to the task force and hire 1.00 planner or specialist position.

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.

**HB-1749-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:55:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **supports** HB 1749, HD 1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs.

HHHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care Oahu](#), 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.

HHHRC’s mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1749 HD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: Thursday, 2/24/22; 12:30 PM; via videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support of HB 1749 HD1** which would establish a supportive housing task force to develop a monitoring and forecasting system, bring stakeholders together to develop an implementation roadmap, bridge developers with supportive housing service providers and develop best practices. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners In Care (PIC).

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for 75 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.

Supportive housing is a growing need not only to address homelessness but also for many other populations, such as the growing number of elderly and other low-income people who need supports. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in costly institutional care. By bringing together many stakeholders as well as developers and other housing experts, the Task Force would develop a road map to help the state identify and plan for the number of housing units needed for different populations with access and functional needs. Another important element is bringing together developers with expertise in housing with supportive housing service providers to create workable and best practice models for our state. We commend the far-reaching vision of this bill to address and plan for the growing number of our state's residents with functional needs.

We applaud the bill's inclusion of 2 supportive housing services users or advocates. **We urge you to amend the membership to either add one person with lived experience of homelessness or designate that one supportive housing services user would be a formerly homeless person.** This member would offer a unique and helpful perspective for the task force to understand the barriers, concerns, and hopes of the people for whom services are being planned. Ending homelessness is a high priority for the State. We must include at least one person with lived experience of homelessness in this planning process.

We urge your support for this initiative to address these growing needs. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) or (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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*Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.*

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB 1749 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: House of Representatives, Committee on Finance,  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
Hearing: Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 12:30 pm via videoconference  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in **support** of **HB 1749 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING**.

There has been a shortage of affordable housing in Hawaii for several decades. We are far behind in our production of affordable housing at every level of the median income. As our population ages we are seeing an increasing need for affordable senior housing and for housing dedicated to those in our community who need a higher level of care in order to maintain housing. The purpose of this act is to create an Affordable Housing Task Force that is dedicated to bringing the data together to help determine the need for this type of affordable housing and address these needs in our community.

Partners In Care has recently participated in strategic planning focused on addressing the higher level of care needs of those within our veteran population who are experiencing homelessness. We have identified more than a dozen veterans who have been homeless for extended periods of time due to the lack of this type of housing. We are doing a disservice to our veterans and a disservice to our entire community if we do not address these needs now. The expense in both human cost and dollar cost is extraordinary if these folks remain homeless. The entire Continuum of Care is actively involved in bringing data together on folks who need special and affordable housing and they are committed to assisting these folks.

**Partners In Care appreciates the addition of the Continuums of Care being added to this task force.** Both Continuums collect and have the ability to share aggregate data with policy makers to help determine the need for housing focused on addressing individuals who have a higher level of care and the providers and stakeholders who can assist with this information. **We would also request that individuals with lived experience be part of this task force to bring their voices to the table.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testifying on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Aloha

**Hawaii**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
12:30 PM  
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 1749, HD1**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair YAMASHITA, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii offers comments on HB 1749, HD1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs in the State and appropriates funds.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization focused on upholding the core values of American democracy through increasing civic engagement and breaking down the barriers to participation in our government.

Common Cause Hawaii understands the depth and seriousness of the housing issue in Hawaii and appreciates HB 1749, HD1, at page 3, lines 4-9, establishing “a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs, bring stakeholders together to develop a roadmap for implementing supportive housing, address financing opportunities, bridge housing developers with supportive housing service providers, and develop best practices.”

Common Cause Hawaii, however, questions why the supportive housing task force is “exempt from part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.” See HB 1749, HD1 at page 7, lines 10-11. Given the demand for supportive housing needs, public participation should not be excluded from the process and such a task force should be subject to Sunshine Law. “Opening up the governmental processes to public scrutiny and participation is the only viable and reasonable method of protecting the public’s interest.” Hawaii Revised Statutes § 92-1. This is especially true with regards to the supportive housing task force.

Thank you for the opportunity offers comments on HB 1749, HD1. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**HB-1749-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:40:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Todd Apo	Hawaii Community Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Hawaii Community Foundation supports HB1749 and will submit full written testimony separately.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

To: House Finance Committee  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President - Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1749 Relating to Supportive Housing  
Thursday, February 24, 12:30 P.M

My name is Micah A. Kāne, CEO of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Please accept my testimony in support of HB1749 related to establishing and appropriating funds for a supportive housing task force. It is well established that housing is a primary issue for our community, and, like many other areas of concern, there is a need to address both the broader level as well as the specific areas within the larger spectrum. HB1749 brings that attention to a specific sector of our community that needs assistance with housing and supportive services.

At the Hawaii Community Foundation, our CHANGE Framework focused on six sectors of the community. Housing falls under the "C" sector of community and economy. Within this sector, we have started by creating an initiative in Maui County titled House Maui. We have found that by focusing on a specific region of the county and identifying local opportunities, we have developed a path to bring housing opportunities focused Maui residents.

Similarly, we see HB1479 providing a focus on the needs of those who would need and would most benefit from a focus on supportive housing. The creation of the task force would result in specific finding and recommendations on best practices within this area, develop relationships between housing development and service provider needs, and identify mechanisms for governmental and other financial support for projects.

We must address basic needs first, and we appreciate the recognition that this is a housing policy and solution area that government must lead. The Hawaii Community Foundation stands ready to collaborate with the government, private and philanthropic sectors in these efforts. Developing supportive housing solutions requires deep and long investment and HB1749 is a start to that effort.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on HB1749 and look forward to continuing the conversation of how best we can be supportive of its intent and outcomes.

Hawaii Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Hawaii Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

Support for H.B. 1749, H.D. 1, Relating to Housing

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee:

My name is Sandra Oshiro and I'm submitting testimony as the mother of an adult daughter who is autistic. I coordinate a support group of about 50 Hawaii families who have young adults on the autism spectrum.

Those of us who are aging parents worry whether our sons and daughters will have a safe place to live after we pass away. Autism's impacts can range from mild to severe so many of our grown children will need support services to live independently, if that is their wish.

The need for assisted housing will only grow as the number of children diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities continues to rise. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now estimates that one in every 44 eight-year-old in the U.S. has autism spectrum disorder.

The creation of supported housing must be accelerated if Hawaii is to meet the demand that is here and that is coming. This need is not solely for children with autism but others in the community who face the threat of homelessness because of age, disability or circumstance.

On the path to creating supportive housing, H.B. 1749, H.D. 1 takes an important step in the right direction by creating a task force that would examine this pressing housing issue. We need a gathering of stakeholders, better data and a clear roadmap, all of which the legislation calls for, to implement development of homes and supports that can sustain lives in the long term.

Thank you for your support of this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Oshiro  
2389 Beckwith St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
ssoshiro@gmail.com



Testimony  
Presented to the House Committee on Finance  
Regarding HB 1749 HD1  
February 24, 2022

As the sole caregiver of a disabled adult who will become homeless upon my demise, I support the passage of HB 1749 to establish and appropriate funds for a supportive housing task force to improve data collection on supportive housing needs in the State.

I respectfully recommend that the task force consider expanding the population for whom data is collected to include those individuals who are dependent upon aging individuals for their sole support. Because these individuals are residing in the caregiver's home, they do not appear on lists of those receiving public benefits from the State. Such individuals may be receiving Social Security survivor benefits, SSDI, or Veterans Disability. These sources of income place them well within the poverty guidelines, but disqualify them for State public benefits because their income slightly exceeds the income eligibility limitations established by the State for public benefits. Yet, their income is insufficient to pay rent, carry medical insurance, or buy food, thus they become homeless.

For example, my daughter who has a mental illness and several life-threatening medical issues which cause permanent disability and the inability to work, receives \$1,000 per month in Social Security survivor benefits. She depends on me for housing, medical insurance, food, and other necessities. I am a cancer patient with an uncertain future and an existing mortgage on our home. When the lender forecloses on the home at my death, my daughter will become homeless. The survivor benefit does not even begin to cover rent for a modest apartment, and she does not meet landlords' requirements that her income be at least three times the rent.

I also have an elderly friend who cares for her developmentally disabled sister. The disabled individual has no other family. She will likely need to transition to a group home or other setting when her caretaker sister passes away.

Likewise, I have another elderly friend who cares for her developmentally delayed niece. The caretaker is in her 80's.

These individuals who I have described are probably not on the radar screens of public agencies or non-profit organizations which provide housing and support services. Similarly, many veterans may also be within the poverty levels but fail to qualify for public support.

I would like to suggest that the task force include representation from the Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration so the data may reflect additional individuals facing homelessness and the need for support services to help them acquire or retain housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this measure.

Virginialeee Jackson

Aiea

**HB-1749-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 6:37:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sandra Kahalewai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have a 23 year old intellectually disabled son. He will never be able to live independently. My husband and I are in our 70's and worry about where he will live when we can no longer take care of him. He is able to work part time and knows how to navigate our neighborhood. He wants to be able to stay in this neighborhood after we are gone. His job is here and he is comfortable here. The neighbors know him and help him. The bank tellers know him and help him. The workers at his favorite restaurant know him and help him. It has taken years for him to develop this comfort and these relationships. The problem is, there is no housing in this neighborhood. We need many more housing options for the disabled in their own neighborhoods where they can be as independent as their disability allows.

*Barbara J. Poole-Street, Ph.D.  
3460A Maunalei Avenue  
Honolulu Hawaii, 96816  
(808) 735 3160*

*February 22, 2021*

Aloha,

I am writing to urge you to support the passage of HB 1749, As a parent of a 45 year old son with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD), and a Head of a Special Olympics Delegation for over 25, years, I have long witnessed the difficulties encountered by families when their support is no longer available for their loved one.

At best, there would be a home available to the person with IDD client (who is challenged by changes and learning new routines) in the community they are familiar with. Additionally, the new placement would not be crisis driven, but planned in a fashion that gives the client a sense of security and confidence.

Less desirable would be a placement in a community far from the home community where the client has no friends and little knowledge of the community itself. Furthermore, the decision to move might be precipitated by a sudden tragedy—death, illness, incapacitation, that gives the client little time to process what is going on and little voice to express their concerns and desires. This seems very familiar to me.

Still less desirable is the outcome we all hope will never happen: a new home is not be found for the client, even though the need for new housing is imperative. I have seen this happen. I have seen a caseworker explain to their client with IDD that they would need to take the SSI income they receive and find a place to live themselves because the case worker could not find a home for them anywhere on Oahu. On \$700 a month, that would be impossible for an average person. Where is that Intellectually Challenged person going to end up???

This is why HB1749 is so important. We cannot take housing availability for granted. It is presently insufficient, We need to develop a system that can meet the housing needs of those marginalized citizens. Our government has already acknowledged the need to care for those who cannot care for themselves. Our present system is not working to meet those responsibilities. HB1749 provides the opportunity to study this issue and explore ways to resolve these issues in a responsible and costwise manner. I highly encourage you to support this bill

Thank you,

Barbara Poole-Street