



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

February 10, 2022

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

The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2512 – RELATING TO OHANA ZONES.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 11:10 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure and appreciates the extension of the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program until June 30, 2026. The Coordinator also supports two similar administration bills - [SB3108](#) and [HB2140](#).

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2026. The bill also appropriates funds to the Governor for the pilot program.

In December 2021, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) – a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator – adopted policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session, including a specific focus on promoting affordable housing for people transitioning from homelessness through an extension of the Ohana Zones program. Since its establishment in 2018, the Ohana Zones pilot program supported 20 projects statewide. As of November 30, 2021, the Ohana Zones pilot program aided 5,510 homeless individuals statewide, including 1,368 placed into permanent housing.

The [Ohana Zones pilot program](#) provided flexible funding for the State and counties to develop innovative programs reflecting the local needs of specific communities, including rural areas of Hawaii island and Oahu. Based on regional needs, Ohana Zones funding supported

expansion of emergency shelter and navigation programs, as well as permanent housing projects for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. Examples of Ohana Zones include the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered \(HONU\)](#) program on Oahu, as well as permanent housing projects such as [Kamaoku Kauhale](#), [Huliau](#), [Kealaula at Pua Loke](#), [Kumuwai](#), and [Hale Maluhia](#). The flexibility of Ohana Zones also enabled the State and counties to rapidly adjust and expand shelter capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as demonstrated by the [Ka Lamaku](#) and [Hale Hanakahi](#) projects. The [HICH annual legislative report](#)¹ provides a detailed overview and evaluation of the Ohana Zones pilot program.

A key strength of the Ohana Zones pilot program are the contracts executed directly between the Coordinator's office and the four counties instead of with individual service providers. The direct contracts with the counties enable the counties to leverage county-level funding, land, and facilities to supplement Ohana Zones funding. For example, the Kumuwai and Hale Maluhia projects on Oahu leverage facilities owned by the City & County of Honolulu and purchased with City funds. Similarly, the Keolahou Assessment Center on Hawaii island leveraged land and facilities under the jurisdiction of Hawaii County. In addition, the HONU program leverages City park facilities to provide space for the program. The close partnership between State and counties to implement Ohana Zones acknowledges that addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility.

An extension of the Ohana Zones pilot program will provide additional resources to address increasing levels of homelessness and housing instability statewide. In January 2021, the Economic Roundtable released [a report](#) that projected the pandemic recession would increase chronic homelessness nationwide by 49% over the next four years.² Similarly, historical data for the statewide homeless Point in Time (PIT) count also indicates demand for homeless services is likely to increase in the wake of the current economic recession. Following the last significant downturn in 2009, the statewide PIT count increased 37% between 2009 and 2016. On a more hopeful note, statewide PIT count data also reflected stark decreases in homelessness between 2016 and 2020, indicating it is possible to reverse upward trends in

¹ Report available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/HICH-Report-to-2022-Legislature-FINAL.pdf>

² Report available at: <https://economicrt.org/publication/locked-out/>

homelessness with a concentrated focus and investment in housing-focused strategies, such as Ohana Zones.

The HICH acknowledges Ohana Zones are just one piece of a more comprehensive effort to address homelessness, which includes reducing upfront barriers to accessing rental housing and expanding programs that assist key homeless sub-populations (e.g., unsheltered youth, adults with severe mental illness, etc.). For more information about the 2022 HICH policy priorities, visit: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/advocacy>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

KAUA'I COUNTY HOUSING AGENCY

ADAM ROVERSI, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Adam P. Roversi
Director, Kaua'i County Housing Agency

Before the
House Committee on Housing
Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 11:10 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 2512 'Ohana Zones

Honorable Chair Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair Troy N. Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Kaua'i County Housing Agency **strongly supports with recommended amendments** HB2512, which extends the 'Ohana Zone pilot program to June 30, 2026.

On Kaua'i the 'Ohana Zone Program facilitated the construction and operation of Kealaula, our very first Supportive Housing Project for homeless families. This 28-unit project houses just under 70 individuals all of whom were previously living on the street. As part of their occupancy, tenants receive tailored supportive services on site designed to assist them in eventually transitioning to market-based housing. The 'Ohana Zone program provided just under 50% of the construction costs of Kealaula and provided one hundred percent of the costs for project management and wrap around social services over three years.

This welcome funding was, however, only one part of what made this 'Ohana Zone project so successful. We were able to construct Kealaula from design to move-in less than 12 months at a per unit cost of approximately \$125,000 per unit, which is less than one-third the cost of typical affordable housing projects in Hawai'i. We were able to construct Kealaula in record time at a dramatically reduced cost because the 'Ohana Zone program operated hand in hand with Governor Ige's Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness. This emergency proclamation waived numerous statutory provisions that typically add significant time and expense to any affordable housing construction endeavor. Most importantly, the Governor's Proclamation waived Historic Preservation Review, Environmental Review, Procurement Requirements, and Prevailing Wage requirements. But for these exemptions we would likely have added another year to our project completion and increased costs per unit costs by at least 25%. Instead of continuously providing desperately needed housing to 28 families and graduating 12 families to permanent housing since January of 2021, would only now be completing the project.



To streamline future 'Ohana Zone supportive housing projects we encourage the committee to adopt exemptions for qualified projects similar to those previously included in Governor Ige's Emergency Homeless Proclamation. To ensure that needed transitional homes, supportive housing, emergency shelters and assessment centers get built in a timely and cost-effective manner we ask that the following exemptions be added to this bill.

- (1) Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;
- (2) Section 37-41, appropriations to revert to state treasury;
- (3) Section 37-74 (d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, program execution, except for subsections 37-74 (d) (2) and (3), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any such transfers or changes shall be considered authorized transfers or changes for purposes of section 34-74(d) (1) Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative reporting requirement;
- (4) Section 40-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes, lapsing of appropriations;
- (5) Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as any county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;
- (8) Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public agency meetings and records, to the extent that any notice requirements or any other provisions of chapter 92 may delay the expeditious action, decision, or approval of any agency;
- (9) Section 102-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts for concessions in government buildings; bid requirements;
- (10) Section 103-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, general fund;
- (11) Section 103-53 Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;
- (12) Section 103-55 Hawaii revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services

- (13) Chapter 103D Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;
- (14) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;
- (15) Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;
- (16) Sections 105-1 to 105-10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, use of government vehicles, limitations;
- (18) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public lands;
- (19) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;
- (20) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;
- (21) Chapter 206E Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii community development authority;
- (22) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental impact statements;
- (23) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services;
- (24) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB 2512 RELATING TO OHANA ZONES

TO: House of Representatives, Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
House of Representatives, Committee on Housing,

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Thursday, February 10th, 2022, 11:10 am via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness and Chair Nakamura and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in **support** of **HB 2512 Relating to Ohana Zones**. The programs created through the OHANA Zone funding have brought innovative solutions to address the issue of homelessness. The extension of this funding will enable more programs to be created, reviewed and put into a more permanent place in our continuum of care if they are proven to be effective.

Partners In Care is in support of exemptions that will enable these programs to move quickly to start up. While these exemptions may speed up the process, we need to be cognizant of any exemptions that may jeopardize the safety of the project itself..

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

Aloha

HB-2512

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:35 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 11:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patrick F. Hurney	Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Habitat for Humanity strongly supports HB2512. We need to extend the sunset of the ‘Ohana Zones pilot program to 2026, which appropriates an additional \$15m.

With the increased cost of materials and supply chain issues, we need more time to complete new projects.

Mahalo,

Patrick F. Hurney

Executive Director



HAWAI' APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
SUPPORTING HB2512 – Relating to Ohana Zone Funding
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Chair Nakamura, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **supporting HB2512** and suggesting some **amendments**.

We applaud the legislature for providing additional funding of \$15M and extending the Ohana Zone Pilot Program through 2026. Ohana Zone funding has financed a various number of projects including transitional housing, tiny homes, diversionary programs, and permanent supportive housing vouchers.

Hawaii Appleseed would also like to suggest **amendments** to strengthen this bill. We would suggest an increase in the funding amount to \$50M since Hawai'i continues to have one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country. At a cost of roughly \$150,000 per transitional housing unit, a budget of \$50M would provide approximately 330 homes, not including ongoing operating costs. With a current homeless population of over 6,000 people in Hawai'i, a budget of \$50M is a significant step forward and still far short of what will be needed to address the issue.

In addition to the funding, it is equally important that we expedite the approval of housing projects targeting our most impacted community members. Without these streamlined approval measures the cost of transitional housing will dramatically increase, to as much as double the cost according to some developers, and many projects will simply never be completed due to delays.

To ensure that needed transitional homes, supportive housing, emergency shelters and assessment centers are built in a timely and cost effective manner we request that the following exemptions be added to this bill:

- (1) Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;
- (2) Section 37-41, appropriations to revert to state treasury;
- (3) Section 37-74 (d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, program execution, except for subsections 37-74 (d) (2) and (3), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any such transfers or changes shall be considered authorized transfers or changes for purposes of section 34-74(d) (1) Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative reporting requirement;
- (4) Section 40-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes, lapsing of appropriations;
- (5) Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as any county

ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;

- (6) Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public agency meetings and records, to the extent that any notice requirements or any other provisions of chapter 92 may delay the expeditious action, decision, or approval of any agency;
- (7) Section 102-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts for concessions in government buildings; bid requirements;
- (8) Section 103-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, general fund;
- (9) Section 103-53 Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;
- (10) Section 103-55 Hawaii revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services
- (11) Chapter 103D Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;
- (12) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;
- (13) Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;
- (14) Sections 105-1 to 105-10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, use of government vehicles, limitations;
- (15) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public lands;
- (16) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;
- (17) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;
- (18) Chapter 206E Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii community development authority;
- (19) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental impact statements;
- (20) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services;
- (21) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals;"

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2512

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:07:44 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 11:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen Alice	Community Alliance Partners	Support	Yes

Comments:

Community Alliance Partners supports this bill and requests the exemptions outlined in testimony submitted by Hope Services Hawai'i.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2512: RELATING TO OHANA ZONES

TO: House Committees on Health, Human Services & Homelessness, and Housing

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022; 11:10 AM; via videoconference

Chair Yamane, Chair Nakamura, and Members, Committees on Health, Human Services & Homelessness, and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support** of HB 1744, which extends the Ohana Zone pilot project for 3 years (to June 30, 2026), and provides \$15 million to fund this pilot. 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.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports extending the Ohana Zone pilot program and providing additional funding, as long as it does not impact funding for other ongoing proven homeless services. During the past 3 years, some Ohana Zone projects only needed one time funding to create housing. Others that provide ongoing services will need continued funding. Twenty projects were created that other federal funding could not address. These projects built on the strengths of the local communities that know their needs. The funding provided an opportunity to respond to these needs in new and creative ways. Working with the counties was an important part of this funding and should be continued.

The initial pilot program demonstrated that addressing the issue of homelessness on the local level through Ohana Zone funding was effective. Hundreds of beds were added to the homeless service network, including creative initiatives like tiny homes.

We urge your support to continue and expand the Ohana Zone program and the \$15 million needed to fund them for the next 3 years, as proposed in this bill.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator

Harry M. Yada
Assistant Housing Administrator

County of Hawai'i
Office of Housing and Community Development

1990 Kino'ole Street, Suite 102 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8379 • Fax (808) 961-8685
Existing Housing: (808) 959-4642 • Fax (808) 959-9308
Kona: (808) 323-4300 • Fax (808) 323-4301

February 9, 2022

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Re: House Bill 2512 Relating to 'Ohana Zones

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Committee Members:

On behalf of the County of Hawaii (County), I support HB 2512, as well as any other initiatives that can have a positive impact on the homeless population, make their lives a bit easier, and move them toward conventional shelter or housing.

The initial 'Ohana Zone funding appropriated to the County of Hawai'i was expended for:

- The renovation and operational cost of the Keolahou Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter that provides for 50 emergency shelter beds and 24/7 drop in operations for single males who experiencing homelessness.
- The renovation and operational cost of a Family Assessment Center at Na Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini. Using the Kakaako Family Assessment Center as its model, the FAC in West Hawaii focuses on partnering with multiple organizations to provide supportive services at one centralized location. The FAC provides a connection to housing resources, along with case management, mail service, and transitional shelter for families with children.
- The pre-development and initial construction cost for the Kukuiola Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter in West Hawai'i. The target population for the program will be single adults and couples, and the program will provide emergency shelter as well as navigate homeless individuals to permanent housing options. The Kukuiola project is a collaborative effort between the State and the County.

XXXXxxx



To ensure that needed transitional homes, supportive housing, emergency shelters and assessment centers get built in a timely manner, the County respectfully request the following exemptions be added to this bill:


- (1) Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;
- (2) Section 37-41, appropriations to revert to state treasury;
- (3) Section 37-74 (d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, program execution, except for subsections 37-74 (d) (2) and (3), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any such transfers or changes shall be considered authorized transfers or changes for purposes of section 34-74(d) (1) Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative reporting requirement;
- (4) Section 40-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes, lapsing of appropriations;
- (5) Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as any county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;
- (6) Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public agency meetings and records, to the extent that any notice requirements or any other provisions of chapter 92 may delay the expeditious action, decision, or approval of any agency;
- (7) Section 102-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts for concessions in government buildings; bid requirements;
- (8) Section 103-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, general fund;
- (9) Section 103-53 Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;
- (10) Section 103-55 Hawaii revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services
- (11) Chapter 103D Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;
- (12) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;
- (13) Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;
- (14) Sections 105-1 to 105-10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, use of government vehicles, limitations;
- (15) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public lands;
- (16) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;

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- (17) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;
- (18) Chapter 206E Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii community development authority;
- (19) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental impact statements;
- (20) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services;
- (21) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2512.



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2512

TO: Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, & HHH Committee Members
Chair Nakamura, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 10, 2022 (11:10 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHC) **supports** HB 2512, which extends the sunset date for the 'ohana zones pilot program to June 30, 2026 and appropriates funds to the governor for the 'ohana zones pilot program.

'Ohana zones have proven to be a useful mechanism to address unsheltered homelessness in recent years, including [Villages of Mā'ili project administered by Catholic Charities of Hawai'i](#). 'Ohana zone funding has also provided HHHRC with 10 vouchers to secure permanent supportive housing for unsheltered homeless persons in need across 'Oahu.

HHHC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), 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 provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore.

HHHC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions. Many of our clients and participants have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2512: RELATING TO 'OHANA ZONES.

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawai'i, Inc.
Hearing: HSG/HHH on Thursday, 02-10-22 11:10AM

Aloha,

My name is Brandee Menino and I am the CEO of Hope Services Hawai'i. Our agency is Hawai'i Island's largest nonprofit homeless services provider, and has had success in serving our most vulnerable neighbors using 'ohana zones funding. This could not have happened without our partnership with the governor's office, whose approval allowed us to expedite the process, and begin offering services as quickly as possible. We appreciate the legislature's innovation in establishing the 'ohana zones program, and commitment to its continued success.


We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 2512**, which would extend the sunset date for the 'ohana zones pilot program to June 30, 2026, and appropriate funds to the governor for the 'ohana zones pilot program. We also respectfully **request the following exemptions (with highest priorities in bold)**, to ensure that construction can be completed in a timely manner:

- (1) **Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;**
- (5) **Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as any county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;**
- (11) Section 103-53 Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;
- (12) Section 103-55 Hawaii revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services
- (13) **Chapter 103D Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;**
- (14) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;
- (15) **Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;**

- (18) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public lands;
- (19) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;
- (20) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;
- (22) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental impact statements;
- (23) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services;
- (24) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals;

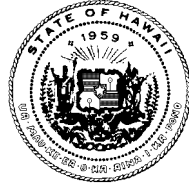
Mahalo nui for considering our request that you **pass HB2512 with the aforementioned exemptions.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandee Menino". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

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 9, 2022

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

The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: HB 2512 – RELATING TO OHANA ZONES.

February 10, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure similar to administration measures HB2140/ SB3108.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to extend the sunset date for the ohana zones pilot program to June 30, 2026. Appropriates funds to the governor for the ohana zones pilot program.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) anticipates a growing number of households will experience housing instability and face eviction. As a result, DHS will need to continue to provide the innovative community-based shelter and housing support programs initiated through the Ohana Zones pilot program led by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Act 209, SLH 2018, established the Ohana Zones pilot program as a three-year pilot project with an initial sunset date of June 30, 2021. Act 128, SLH 2019, extended the program to June 30, 2023.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic health and economic consequences impact many residents' ability to pay rent or mortgages. Local eviction statistics from the Mediation Center of the Pacific show that pursuant to Act 57, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, as of January 31, 2022, there were 1,541 mediation cases opened on Oahu since the end of the eviction moratorium. Of those, 535 resulted in a mediated agreement, and the rest, 726, are eligible to proceed to court. Unfortunately, we do not have statistics on those 726 households. As prices for rent and most consumer goods continue to rise and wages remain the same for many low-income residents, we anticipate that more residents will not be able to pay rent and will not be able to find less expensive housing.

As of September 30, 2021, nineteen Ohana Zones pilot projects served 5,076 individuals statewide and placed 1,129 individuals into permanent housing. In addition, the Ohana Zones pilot projects maintained 358 beds in the homeless services system and added 432 new beds for shelter or housing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohana Zones pilot program enabled the State and counties to be flexible and quickly add shelter capacity.

Following the economic recession in 2009, the statewide point-in-time count of homeless individuals increased from 5,782 to a high of 7,921 in 2016 – an increase of 2,139 people (36.9% increase). DHS anticipates a potentially more significant increase than following the 2009 recession as the pandemic continues and the timeframe for economic recovery is uncertain.

Additionally, the pandemic has further exposed the need for the State and counties to develop safer shelter options for unaccompanied youth and youth whose families are experiencing homelessness or living in crowded spaces. When families are experiencing housing instability, frequently, older youth double up with family members or friends; these older youth may stay at multiple homes to not overburden the families where they are staying. The housing instability impacts their health and well-being and their ability to attend school. More resources are needed to provide stable housing options for unaccompanied youth or youth experiencing homelessness. COVID-19 exposure and diagnosis have also impacted the ability of youth to find safe shelter to isolate and quarantine and to attend online school while in isolation or quarantine.

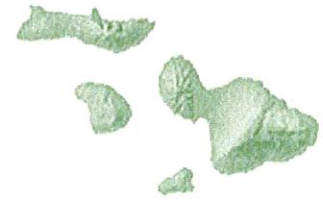
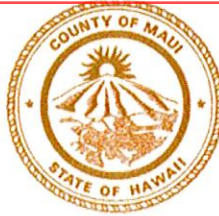
Given the increased demand for homeless services, there is a need to continue and expand the Ohana Zones pilot program to sustain effective services and expand statewide bed inventory. The continuation and expansion of the Ohana Zones pilot program will sustain effective homeless services and add new bed inventory to meet increased demand during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKO
Director

LINDA R. MUNSELL
Deputy Director




DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
& HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

February 9, 2022

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

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Lori Tshako, LSW, ACSW, Director 
County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns

SUBJECT: **HB2512 – RELATING TO OHANA ZONES**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB2512. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to extend the sunset date for the Ohana Zones Program to June 30, 2026. The Department of Housing and Human Concerns supports the intent of this bill and respectfully offers additional comments.

The Ohana Zone funding provided to the County of Maui has been utilized to provide case management and property management for Huliau. Huliau was an old, defunct, and dilapidated dormitory on the campus of the University of Hawaii Maui campus. The construction/renovation cost for the project was generously provided by HHFDC's Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund. The renovation project resulted in 12 permanent housing units for formerly homeless families, along with supportive services and property management.

The Department is in support of on-going funding being made available through the extension of the Ohana Zones Program, and would pursue the development of additional, much needed affordable housing units if funding were allocated to the County. We ask for consideration of several exemptions being included in the proposed law to further enable more efficient housing development. These requested exemptions are:

- (1) Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;
- (2) Section 37-41, appropriation to revert to state treasury;
- (3) Section 37-74 (d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, program execution, except for subsections 37-74 (d) (2) and (3), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any such transfers or changes

shall be considered authorized transfers or changes for purposes of section 34-74 (d) (1) Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative reporting requirement;

(4) Section 40-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes, lapsing of appropriations;

(5) Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as an county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;

(8) Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public agency meetings and records, to the extent that any notice requirements or any other provisions of chapter 92 may delay the expeditious action, decision, or approval of any agency;

(9) Section 102-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts for concessions in government buildings; bid requirements;

(10) Section 103-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, general fund;

(11) Section 103-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;

(12) Section 103-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services;

(13) Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;

(14) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;

(15) Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;

(16) Sections 105-1 to 105-10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, use of government vehicles, limitations;

(18) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Public Lands;

(19) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;

(20) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;

(21) Chapter 206E Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii community development authority;

(22) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental Impact statements;

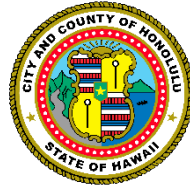
(23) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services; and

(24) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2512.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

550 SOUTH KING STREET, 2ND FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-6622 • FAX: (808) 768-4215 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/moca/



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

TRISH LA CHICA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 9, 2022

Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB2512
RELATING TO OHANA ZONES

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN K. TAM, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TROY N. HASHIMOTO, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSING

Hearing Date: February 10, 2022

Room Number: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Office Position: The City and County of Honolulu's Office of Housing **SUPPORTS** this bill to extend the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2026.

Offered Amendment: None

Fiscal Implications: None for the Office of Housing

Office Testimony: The City and County of Honolulu's Office of Housing appreciates the Legislature's work over the years to address homelessness statewide. Since Governor Ige signed the first emergency proclamation on homelessness, state and counties have worked together to address our homeless and housing crisis by providing our most vulnerable residents and families a safe place to live and including wrap-around supportive services that enable them to lead healthy lives.

According to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness' Office, as of November 31, 2021, the Ohana Zone programs have served over 5,510 individuals statewide and placed 1,368 individuals into permanent housing. On Oahu, the program supported new services for the following agencies:

- Hale Kipa Permanent Supportive Housing (Youth)
- Hale Maluhia Permanent Supportive Housing (DV)
- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center Permanent Supportive Housing (Chronically Homeless)

- Kamaoku Kauhale (Veterans)
- Kumuai Elderly Housing (Elderly)
- Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons (HONU) and Provisional Outdoor Screening and Triage (POST) (Chronically Homeless)
- Kumuhonua Shelter Roof Repair (Shelter)
- Onelauena Shelter Roof Repair (Shelter)
- Villages of Maili Assessment Center and Bridge Housing (Families)
- RYSE Youth Assessment Center (Youth)

The City and County of Honolulu's Office of Housing believes the Ohana Zone program should continue in providing our residents experiencing homelessness a safe place to live, including essential support services to help them thrive as part of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



women in need
SERVING HAWAII SINCE 1996

February 9, 2022

To: Chair Yamane, Chair Nakamura
Members of the Committee

Thru: Mary Scott-Lau, Executive Director
Kimberly Cummings, Kauai Program Director

From: Sharon Graham, Housing Director

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB2512 Ohana Zones Pilot Program

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit our testimony. We are in strong support of this bill, as it extends the sunset date and appropriates additional funds to the already existing pilot programs statewide.

On Kaua'i Ohana Zone funds were used to create Kealaula on Pua Loke, which is our County's first Permanent Supportive Housing project. This project consists of 28 rental housing units, of which there are 6 studio units and 28 1-bedroom units, an administration building and a classroom building.

Women In Need (WIN) currently operates Kealaula. This program provides wrap around support services for families and individuals who are transitioning from houselessness using the Housing First model. The Housing First model was developed to house houseless families/individuals first without restrictions, and then provide them case management services to become self-sufficient, be able to afford, secure and maintain permanent housing. Additionally, we provide follow-up case management services for up to 1 year with residents that move into permanent housing to be able to ensure that they are still on track with their goals.

Our services include, but are not limited to financial education, how to properly care for your home, applying for voucher assistance (TBRA & Sec.8 programs), nutrition classes, housing applications, job applications and interview. For those with substance abuse issues, we offer assessments, and treatment classes. We make connections with other service providers such as mental health professionals, property managers, real estate brokers, and also community members.

Another successful component of our program is requiring in-person meetings for each resident at least 2 hours each month. This is so we can discuss what they would like to achieve, how we can help them, and set their goals so we are able to develop their service plans. Services that each client receives is tailored to their needs, one person may need more services and another may not.

Our successes show that this model works, to date we have housed 39 households or 97 individuals (49 adults & 48 keiki's); we have had 12 households or 34 individuals (14 adults & 20 keiki's) transition into permanent housing. It's important to note that the 12 households transitioned out of Kealaula prior to hitting their 1-year anniversary. This is why we feel so strongly that case management services, especially funding for these types of services, is vital to the success of projects such as these or any type of housing projects that involve those transitioning from houselessness. We have over 100 households on our waitlist.

Our families that transitioned out of this program, were able to secure better employment, reduce their debt, either start or increase their savings, attended financial education and ready to rent classes, and actively participated in case management. The most important tool that they had at their disposal was the courage to ask for and seek assistance from their case managers. This is why we believe our program is so successful and have had such a positive effect on our community.

We recognize that houselessness is a difficult issue to solve, there will never be an easy answer to its resolve. However, we strongly believe that programs such as Kealaula is a great start to addressing this issue, providing wrap around services and gaining trust is an essential part of the solution.

Ohana Zone programs such as Kealaula, Kauhale and other programs are essential to each County's success in addressing our houseless population.

WIN stands in support of HB2512, we urge for the passing of this bill. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our written testimony.