

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

April 5, 2022

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

**FROM:** Cathy Betts, Director

**SUBJECT: SB 2371 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

**HEARING:** April 6, 2022 2:45 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent, supports this draft, and provides comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness information system working group to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system to collect and track real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1).

The SD1 made significant amendments as follows:

- (1) Establishing a Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group within the Department of Human Services to first assess the feasibility of creating a statewide homelessness information system that could be utilized by various government agencies to provide efficient and effective assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk individuals, before establishing the system itself;
- (2) Requiring the working group to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023;
- (3) Requiring the working group's report to include:

- (A) An assessment of the forms of statewide homelessness information systems that collect, track, and share data in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of personal information, and the form of the system most suitable for implementation in Hawaii;
- (B) A financial feasibility assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis, of establishing and maintaining the statewide homelessness information system; and
- (C) An assessment of whether funding for the operation of the system should be included in the base budget of the Department of Human Services;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended the measure as follows:

- (1) Inviting, rather than requiring, representatives from specific private entities to serve on the task force;
- (2) Specifying the appointing authority for certain listed task force members;
- (3) Requiring that the legislative committee chairs appointed to the working group serve as co-chairs of the working group;
- (4) Clarifying the contents of the working group's report to the Legislature;
- (5) Inserting an appropriation of an unspecified sum for the Department of Human Services to contract with a third-party to prepare the working group's required report; and
- (6) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD1 amended the measure by:

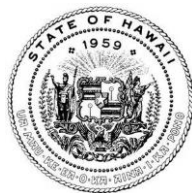
- (1) Changing the composition of the working group to generally include nonprofit organizations that provide continuum of care services in the State, rather than naming specific organizations;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department appreciates these amendments and agrees that understanding homeless data is fundamental to strategically addressing homelessness in Hawaii. The Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group is a good opportunity for decision-makers and stakeholders to understand the capacity of existing systems and envision a path towards a comprehensive system and or data collaborative.

The Department respectfully requests the appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

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

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

April 6, 2022

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

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

**SUBJECT: SB 2371 SD2 HD1– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 2:45 p.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this bill, respectfully offers comments, and suggests amendments. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish a Statewide Homelessness Information System (HMIS) Working Group to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system that collects and tracks real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments by the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness to change the composition of the working group to generally include nonprofit organizations that provide continuum of care services in the State, rather than naming specific organizations.

If this moves forward, the Coordinator suggests the Legislature consider further amendments to align the efforts of the working group with the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). Additionally, the scope of the working group could be amended to include development of a plan for a homeless information clearinghouse, including identifying

what data is needed, where data exists, working through privacy concerns, and providing recommendations for a long-term plan for data collection and sharing.

Comprehensive data is critical to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to reduce homelessness statewide. Accordingly, the HICH – a 27-member advisory council – regularly reviews data regarding homeless system performance metrics at its quarterly meetings. Current 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) The length of stay in homeless emergency and transitional shelters. This data is posted online at <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>. In addition, an overview of the homelessness system and system performance metrics is submitted annually to the Legislature as required by statute.<sup>1</sup> The proposed working group could build off of this existing data framework.

The Coordinator notes that if a statewide information system is deemed feasible, an initial appropriation will be required for the planning and design of a data system that is able to pull data from multiple other sources. The State does not currently maintain such a shared system and has largely relied on the two Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) databases maintained by Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap for Oahu and the neighbor islands respectively. Consultation with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) or another agency with similar expertise in Information Technology will be necessary to determine the level of appropriation needed for planning and design, as well as an appropriate timeframe for development of a new statewide information system that is compliant with confidentiality requirements of section 346-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and other applicable federal and state privacy laws. Following development and implementation of a statewide information system, an ongoing appropriation will likely be necessary to maintain the system and implement system upgrades as technology advances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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  
SENATE BILL NO. 2371, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

**April 6, 2022**  
**2:45 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

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

Senate Bill No. 2371, S.D. 2, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group (SHISWG) within the Department of Human Services (DHS); 2) requires SHISWG to assess the feasibility of establishing a real-time, statewide homeless information system; 3) sets membership and reporting requirements for SHISWG; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for DHS in FY 23 to contract with a third-party to prepare SHISWG's report to the Legislature.

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.



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Finance**  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

by:

Rodney A. Maile  
Administrative Director of the Courts

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 2371, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness.

**Purpose:** Establishes a statewide homelessness information system working group to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system to collect and track real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (H.D. 1)

**Judiciary's Position:**

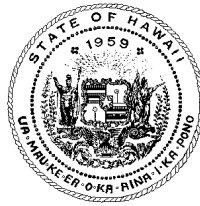
The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 2371, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 because the data that will be collected and maintained by the statewide homelessness information system will provide critical information to assist judges, probation officers, and other Judiciary staff in assessing the needs of homeless individuals who are involved in judicial proceedings, as well as identifying the appropriate assistive services that would be available for these individuals.



The Judiciary respectfully requests that a Judiciary representative be included as a member of the working group tasked to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system to collect and track real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including the availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State, and that may be utilized by various government agencies to provide efficient and effective assistance to individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
1177 Alakea Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2371, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

by

Max N. Otani, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

April 6, 2022; 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, CR 415 & via Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2371, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1, which establishes a Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group to assess the feasibility of creating a statewide homelessness information system and to provide a comprehensive report of its findings to the 2023 Legislature.

PSD previously stated its support for a shared information system and is willing to participate as an invited member of the Information System Working Group proposed in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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 Finance**

April 6, 2022

S.B. 2371 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports the intent of S.B. 2371 SD2 HD1, which would develop a plan to establish a statewide homelessness information *working group* to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system to collect and track real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State. We, however, believes that Proposed HD2, which should have been provided to this committee, should be adopted. Establishing another working group would take an additional year to appoint members. Instead of yet another working group, we believe it would be far more effective if the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness is responsible for the plan and work with the appropriate agencies to identify data needed, where data exists, work through privacy issues, coordinate the use of data, and establish a workable cost-effective plan for long-term collection and sharing of data.

An informal group of twenty-plus representatives from eleven state, county, and non-profit agencies (including the Office of the Public Defender) was brought together by the Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki and 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 group, identified as the “End Homelessness Group” (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 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) – have the largest sources of information on homelessness. The data relating to homelessness are only shared between governmental agencies and other non-profit 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.

Developing a plan to establish a statewide information clearinghouse that would allow agencies to share data is a step in the right direction in reducing, preventing, and ending homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

# 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.*

## COMMENTS ON SB 2371 SD2, HD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance,  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
HEARING: Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 2:45PM  
POSITION: **Comments**

Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, would like to submit comments on this measure. Data is an integral part of assessing the needs and utilization of services and resources in the homeless service system. It is through the monitoring and evaluation of programs that providers, the community and policy makers can make decisions on the funding, policies and programs available within the community. Partners In Care is the Lead Agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and has worked hard to improve this system over the last several years and make more data analysis available to all stakeholders. Partners In Care takes the integrity of this system seriously and endeavors to protect client level data so that those who receive homeless services and resources trust that their information is not being shared inappropriately.

Partners In Care is committed to making aggregate data available to stakeholders and the community and encourage people to reach out to us to review this information on our website. We are also open to suggestions on other dashboards and reports that we could produce as well as the possibility of creating sharing agreements. While the need for a statewide report is understood, we would like any available funding to be placed in services and housing to address homelessness on Oahu and statewide. Both Continuums of Care in Hawaii (PIC and BTG) submit multiple reports throughout the year that helps to inform stakeholders of current trends and data. This includes the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) the Point In Time Count (PITC), reports to the Hawaii Interagency on Homelessness and much more. We work very closely with the Governors Coordinator on Homelessness as well as county representatives from the Mayor's Office on Housing and the Department of Community Services. It is through these relationships that provide guidance to our system.

**We appreciate the previous amendments to this measure to create a working group to further discuss the issue of data within our state. At this time, we do not feel that the creation of a new database is warranted and that there are other ways to pull data in a manner that will meet the needs of all stakeholders. We also request that representatives from the Housing and Urban Development be included in this working group. The majority of funds currently covering the HMIS throughout**

**Oahu come from HUD along with regulations on use of this funding and the metrics required to come from the database.**

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

Aloha

**SB-2371-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 2:11:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of time and Money. We need something Done not just talk!!!