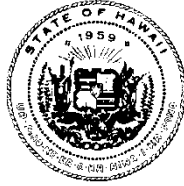


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022**  
**10:00 AM – VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE – Room 423, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 2677, SD1**  
**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Honorable Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2677, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 2677, SD1, which establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the HPHA for individuals sixty-two years of age or older who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

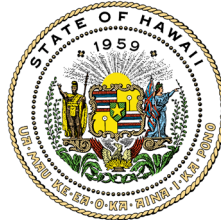
The HPHA would truly appreciate the opportunity to administer the long-term rental assistance pilot program and has the expertise and track record to collaborate with the non-profit community to develop and manage this program to assist our most disadvantaged kupuna. While the HPHA does not normally request exemptions, please know that if the intent is to immediately establish this program, the HPHA would need to be exempt from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code. If the HPHA is not exempt from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code in this measure, it will take approximately 6-8 months to go through the normal rule making process.

The HPHA stands ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be part of the overall solution needed to address all housing and homeless related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO  
DIRECTOR

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2677 SD1  
Relating to Homelessness**

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

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022  
10:00 AM

Room Number: 423  
via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department  
2 of Health, supports SB2677 SD1, Relating to Homelessness.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount of funds from the  
4 general revenues of the State for fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
5 for a long-term rental assistance pilot program for older adults who are sixty-two years of age or  
6 older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The measure also includes  
7 two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) public housing specialist positions within the Hawaii public  
8 housing authority to support the rental assistance pilot program.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to establish the long-term rental  
10 assistance pilot program for kupuna. Many of Hawaii's kupuna are on fixed incomes and with  
11 the high cost of housing in Hawaii, many kupuna are forced to cut back on essential expenses,  
12 such as food, transportation, and medical care to just afford their housing needs. Any setback in  
13 our kupuna's income can put them at risk for becoming homeless. Creative, long-term,

1 affordable housing options and creative, alternative housing strategies are direly needed to  
2 prevent homelessness with our kupuna who are financially struggling.

3 **Recommendation:** The EOA supports this measure for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to  
4 develop a long-term rental assistance pilot program that will prevent Hawaii's low income  
5 kupuna from becoming homeless.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 HOUSING  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2677, S.D. 1



**March 22, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 423 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Bill No. 2677, S.D. 1: 1) establishes the Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program (LRAPP) within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA); 2) sets the duties and responsibilities of HPHA regarding the administration of LRAPP; 3) authorizes HPHA to enter into memoranda of agreement with counties or specialized non-profit organizations to implement LRAPP; and 4) sets a sunset date of June 30, 2025, for LRAPP. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to HPHA to establish LRAPP and authorizes 2.00 full-time equivalents to establish two Public Housing Specialist positions.

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.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
The House Committee on Housing  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Chair

RE: Support for S.B. 2677 S.D.1, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with over 140,000 members in Hawai'i. **AARP supports S.B. 2677 S.D. 1** which establishes the pilot long-term rental housing assistance program for individuals over sixty-two years old who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Hawaii's high cost of housing is making it unaffordable for many, but especially for those at low or fixed income. These residents are more vulnerable of becoming dependent on other family members for shelter, or face homelessness. Until recently, the federal relief funds have assisted many residents with their housing expenses during this COVID-19 pandemic. However, those funds are diminishing or have stopped which now put many at risk in losing their place of residence. According to 2021 Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB), there were 310 evictions and 2,150 homeless among Hawaii residents 55 years and older. The 2022 forecast is grimmer. It shows that the number of evictions for older residents will jump from 310 to 1,050, and homeless kūpuna will rise to 2,980. It is essential to assist older adults from facing housing crisis and therefore, the proposed S.B. 2677 will help many vulnerable kūpuna from being displaced from their residence.

AARP supports this measure and recommends an amendment in Section 2 (a) (2), which states "individuals participating in the program should not pay more than 50% of their income on rent." This typically refers to the extremely low-income residents being eligible for the subsidy. Since this program is also intended to assist "low-income" kupuna who are rent burdened, we respectfully recommend changing the percentage from 50% to "30%" so that more low-income individuals can qualify for this rental assistance. Thank you very much for the opportunity to **support S.B. 2677 S.D.1.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Keali'i Lopez, State Director

# 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 SB 2677 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Housing,  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 10:00am  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Nakamura and Members of the House Committee on Housing :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 2677 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Kupuna has a deep and honored position in our Hawaii community. Our Kupuna should be honored and respected and should be seen as living treasures, but that is not the case for so many of our senior community members. Due to the high cost of living in Hawaii, we are pricing our Kupuna out of housing and much of their support system is moving away from the islands.

Partners In Care has assisted many seniors with housing assistance and this is one of the most difficult populations to find housing for due to their fixed income and complex health needs. This measure proposes housing assistance that will allow seniors 62 years of age and older that does not exceed 50%. We should continue to work to get more affordable senior housing in our community. Hawaii has a large aging population and we need to recognize this and support our Kupuna.

Our Kupuna deserve better, our elders deserve affordable housing so that they can be a resource and a teacher for our generation and beyond.

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

Aloha



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2677 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Housing  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Tuesday, 3/22/22; 10:00 am; via videoconference

Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support** of **SB 2677 SD1**, which would establish a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals sixty-two years of age or older who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. 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 has a Housing Assistance Program that counsels and assists elders to obtain affordable housing. Our biggest challenge is the lack of rentals that our clients can afford on their low incomes. This Program currently has over 50 seniors who are over 62 on our urgent waitlist (homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness). The average age is 75 years old! They are often long-term renters who have been displaced. D. is homeless and living in a car since 2018, since he could not stay where he had been living. DW's lease ended and could not afford a new rental due to low income, so is living in a van. C's brother died and the heirs want her out in a few months. These sad stories go on and on.

**Another case that should never happen just walked into our offices recently.** An 81 year old woman with limited English had become homeless (living at a bus station) after she fell ill and could no longer work (at 81!). Although alert and able to use public transportation, all we could do immediately was to help her get on a waitlist for an emergency shelter which was full. She kept repeating, "I have never had to ask for help before."

The proposed long term rental assistance program to be operated by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is much needed by elders like these. We strongly support housing counseling and landlord assistance and other services to enable the most vulnerable elders to access housing. The economic stress of homelessness and the anxiety of facing no place to go when a lease ends or rent is increased, can have a huge impact on their health. In order for this program to provide timely services, we strongly support funding for two full-time public housing specialist positions within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Please help. Please provide our kupuna with the assistance to find housing and pay the ongoing rent. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

