



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing
The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Chang, Senator San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1397 HD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1397 HD1**, which Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

Supportive housing will massively benefit members of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability community (I/DD), which is disproportionately houseless. An increase in housing that is accessible to vulnerable special needs populations can be essential to ensuring those with I/DD are able to live safely and independently.

The support systems included in this pilot program also increase long-term benefits for populations in need of housing. Specifically, we would like to highlight the responsibility to, when possible, maximize the possibility of employment (page 5, lines 8-9). Under Hawai'i's Employment First commitment, the importance of I/DD individuals being able to work is highlighted. Finding employment can increase I/DD independence and integration into the community, benefitting both the individuals and strengthening the community as a whole.

This pilot program will ensure that our community is supported with accessible decent housing, increasing their quality of life, encouraging independence, and promoting community participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1397 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Housing
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

by:

Brandon M. Kimura
Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

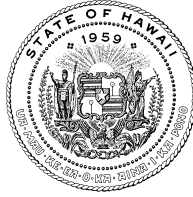
Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1397, H.D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing.

Purpose: Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary testifies in support of the intent of this measure, which includes strategies to improve public safety and address significant challenges to public systems. In particular, the proposed supported services of mental health and substance use counseling are resources in high demand and low supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **James Koshiba**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
Senate Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services
March 14, 2023
1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225
In consideration of
House Bill 1397 HD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Aloha Chairs Chang and Buenaventura and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1397 HD1 and to offer comments.

This bill is aligned with the Governor's priorities on homelessness, which include an emphasis on supportive housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

The program proposed by this bill would provide an important complement to existing permanent supportive housing programs that reduce homelessness, such as the Housing First program, which is focused on "chronically homeless" individuals, i.e., individuals who have a diagnosed physical disability, mental illness, or addiction and who are verified as having been "homeless continuously for at least twelve months or, homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years..." (HRS §346-378). Many individuals experiencing homelessness may not meet the definition of "chronically homeless." Others meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or the duration of their "chronicity" needed to qualify. In addition, anyone who is homeless, but enters a hospital, treatment program, or jail for ninety days or more no longer qualifies as "chronically homeless," even if they still have no housing upon discharge and are therefore returned to the street. Supportive housing not limited to "chronically homeless" individuals, as proposed in this bill, can help fill these gaps.

With regard to Section 2.(c) and the development of supportive housing projects, I defer to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation. I applaud the targeting of households at or below thirty per cent of area median income, as those experiencing homelessness typically fall within this income range.

With regard to Section 2.(d) and the creation of a project-based rent supplement program, I defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. However, I would note that a rent supplement capped at \$500 per month may be insufficient to meet the bill's dual aims to provide, "rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below thirty per cent of the area median income...[and] provide project owners with limited rates of return on their investments in rental housing accommodations..." This would be particularly difficult if costs of financing, operating, and maintaining housing change over time. A more flexible approach might be to amend the language in Section 2.(d) to read:

“The Hawaii public housing authority shall implement project-based rent supplement payments **of no more than \$500 a month, to project owners for units that are rented to eligible residents participating in the supportive housing pilot program. The project-based rent supplement payments shall be used** to assist project owners in maintaining rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below thirty per cent of the area median income **by providing owners with project-based rent supplement payments,** which, together with rental payments received from eligible tenants, will provide project owners with limited rates of return on their investments in rental housing accommodations.”

With regard to Section 2.(e), I would recommend clarifying that the payment amounts specified aer per unit per month. Also, since contracts for services often fall under Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I would request that the language in this section be amended to include exemption from that section in addition to 103D:

The supportive services funding of no more than \$800 **per unit** per month is intended to be matched with federal medicaid funds.

The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall be exempt from chapters **103D and 103F**, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the supportive services payments and may, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the supportive housing pilot program.”

I defer to the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division on the feasibility and scalability of utilizing Medicaid funds to match state funds for supportive services.

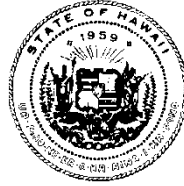
With regard to Section 2.(g), I would note that implementation of this pilot program may require new construction, followed by inter-agency coordination to place individuals into housing, provide supportive services and rent supplements, and gather data on results *after* tenants have sustained their housing for some time. Therefore, I would request lengthening the effective dates related to implementation and reporting as follows:

“(g) The Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, Hawaii public housing authority, and statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall submit a joint interim report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the supportive housing pilot program to the legislature by **December 1, 2024**, and a final report of findings and recommendations by **December 1, 2025**.”

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba
Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
Senate Committee on Housing
&
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

1:00 p.m., March 14, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 225

In consideration of
HB 1397, HD 1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1397, HD1, relating to supportive housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of HB 1397, HD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

The HPHA believes in increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs and hopes to assist in this supportive housing pilot program. The HPHA stands ready and looks forward to assisting 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 related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with its testimony regarding HB 1397, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 14, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 1397 HD 1 – Relating to Supportive Housing

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1397 HD1 – Relating to Supportive Housing and offers the following comments.

This bill would establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals and families with special needs.

The housing crisis is magnified for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are twice as likely to live below the poverty level. Without action to address the affordable housing shortage, more people with disabilities are at risk of losing their independence or becoming homeless or institutionalized. This bill would assist people with disabilities who are facing housing insecurity.

In addition to addressing the affordable housing shortage, legislation should address the quantity of supportive housing units that are accessible to people with mobility and communication disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards) specifies the minimum percentage of accessible housing units in public facilities. The ADA Standards require only five percent of units to be accessible for mobility disabilities and two percent of units to be accessible for communication disabilities. The Fair Housing Act (FHA) design and construction requirements specify the minimum number of adaptable housing units in public and private buildings containing four or more units. The FHA requires all dwelling units to be adaptable for mobility disabilities in buildings with an elevator, but only requires ground floor units to be adaptable for mobility disabilities in buildings without an elevator. The FHA does not require units to be adaptable for communication disabilities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 Disability Characteristics for the State of Hawaii, 19.1 percent of Hawaii's residents that are sixty-five years and older have a mobility difficulty, 12.6 percent have a hearing difficulty, and 4.7 percent have a vision difficulty. The following adjustments exceed the minimum accessibility and adaptability requirements and thereby would provide Hawaii residents with disabilities, especially kupuna with disabilities, the opportunity to live independently and give more residents without disabilities an option to continue to live in their home as they age in place:

- In public facilities with residential dwelling units, at least twenty percent, but no fewer than one unit, of the total number of residential dwelling units shall provide mobility features that comply with applicable technical requirements in the ADA Standards.

- In public facilities with residential dwelling units, at least thirteen percent, but no fewer than one unit, of the total number of residential dwelling units shall provide communication features that comply with applicable technical requirements in the ADA Standards.
- In multi-story buildings with four or more residential dwelling units, an elevator shall connect each story and all dwelling units shall comply with the FHA design and construction requirements.

Investing in accessible, affordable supportive housing recognizes the needs of our residents with disabilities, which includes our kupuna with disabilities.

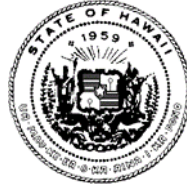
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 13, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1397 HD1](#) – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, suggests an extended effective date to facilitate planning, and defers to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and the Department of Health. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget and Governor's Messages.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The bill appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

DHS appreciates the amendments made by the Committees on Housing and Health & Homelessness:

- (1) Clarifying that the \$500 monthly project-based rent supplemental payments to project owners are for units that are rented to eligible residents participating in the Supportive Housing Pilot program to assist the project owners maintaining rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below third percent of the area median income;
- (2) Clarifying that the SOHHS shall administer payments for supportive services under the Supportive Housing Pilot Program;
- (3) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department agrees that there is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the demand. While a one-time appropriation can support upfront housing construction, sustained funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and supportive services for clients served by the pilot program to maintain housing over time.

The bill proposes that supportive services funding for the pilot be matched with federal Medicaid funds. The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is piloting the Community Integration Services (CIS) program, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. However, participation in CIS is limited to households currently enrolled in a QUEST, and the CIS program cannot use Medicaid funds to pay for rent. If this measure proceeds, DHS will continue discussing with the SOHHS and other stakeholders how the CIS program could support households participating in the proposed supportive housing pilot.

In addition, as drafted, this measure intends to serve “individuals with special needs,” a broader population than the State’s Housing First program that serves “chronically homeless” individuals and families. The measure contemplates a supportive housing strategy that combines housing and supportive services for a wide range of households with acute needs and is not limited to those experiencing homelessness.

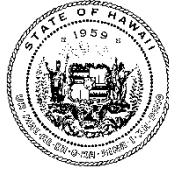
For example, supportive housing programs may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly. However, CIS does not explicitly serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), and the elderly. Unfortunately, the presence of domestic

violence alone would not qualify a person for CIS; however, if a survivor of domestic violence had medical or behavioral health needs and were eligible for Medicaid, they would qualify. DHS defers to the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division for services available for the I/DD population. Regarding the elderly, if the elderly met the Level of Care for Activities of Daily Living, were at risk of institutionalization (e.g., Nursing facility), and are eligible for Medicaid, then yes, they would qualify for CIS.

DHS notes the difference between supportive housing, as described in this measure, and the Housing First program, the permanent supportive housing (PSH) program currently administered by the DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO). The Housing First program specifically serves “chronically homeless” individuals and families as required by section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The State’s Housing First program is very successful, with a retention rate of 94%, reflecting the percentage of participating chronically homeless individuals and families who remained in their permanent housing placement with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

Developing a broader supportive housing program to serve individuals with special needs will require additional recurring general funds and time to plan amongst agencies, communities, and stakeholders; therefore, DHS respectfully suggests an extended effective date.

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



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
HOUSING
AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
March 14, 2023, 1:00 PM

HOUSE BILL 1397, HD1
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Kanuha, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1397 HD1.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill, however, objects to the procurement exemption for the selection of a qualified non-profit organization. The SPO recommends that the exemption language noted below be removed.

Page 5, SECTION 2, lines 1 to 4 set forth below.

“The Hawaii public housing authority shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the rent supplement payments ...”

Page 5, line 19 to 21 and Page 6 line 1 to 2 set forth below.

“The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the supportive services payments...”

Exemptions to the procurement code have always been a concern of the SPO. As stated in the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) white paper on “Ethics and Accountability,” “Maintaining the integrity of public procurement is one of the most important pillars of government.”

The bill does not cite a justification why the selection of a qualified non-profit organization should be exempt from the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 103D, “Hawaii Public Procurement Code” (Code). The SPO recommends that the bill include compelling reasons for this exemption, otherwise, the agency should adhere to the Code. If the intent is to award contracts to a nonprofit organization, the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions would include a requirement that potential offerors be qualified nonprofit organizations.

Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code), is the State's single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both Chapter 103D and 103F, HRS, conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning, or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

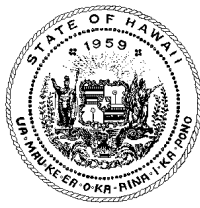
The National Association of State Procurement Officials states that “Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments.”

When public bodies are removed from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1397, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Housing
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 14, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and via Video Conference

Chairs Chang and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers comments on House Bill (HB) 1397, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program for individuals with special needs.

PSD has previously stated it supports this measure which is aimed to address various housing challenges statewide. Individuals transitioning from incarceration face additional barriers, which compound their difficulties to secure appropriate and affordable housing. This lack of access adds to the population who remain incarcerated past their minimum sentences and makes the transition to reenter the community that much more difficult. PSD will work closely with the Governor's statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions and the other entities, including Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, on the initiative proposed in HB 1397, HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1397, House Draft 1.

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 4:12:40 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Testifying for HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hope Services Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1397 HD1, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.



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

**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Housing
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura

RE: Support for H.B. 1397, HD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

Aloha Co-Chairs Chang and San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:

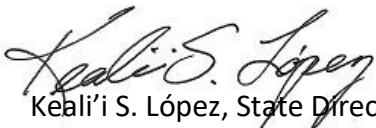
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP supports H.B 1397 HD1 which establishes a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs.

We appreciate this rare opportunity for the State to focus on creating supportive housing services especially for the extremely low income households who are at or below 30% AMI. Affordable supportive services have been the missing component in keeping residents with special needs to reside in a safe and clean residence and reducing homelessness in the state. Having services such as mental health, substance abuse counseling and activities of daily living support would benefit vulnerable and at risk residents including Hawaii's kūpuna, and allow them to maintain their independence and quality of life.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **H.B. 1397, HD1**.

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López, State Director



HB1397 HD1 (S) Supportive Housing Pilot Project

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair

Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair


Tuesday, Mar 14, 2023 1:00: Room 225

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1397 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.

Connection, support, sobriety, employment, and quality of life—these are all significant outcomes for people in recovery.

Supportive Housing (SH) is community-based housing targeted to low-income households with that combines housing with case management and wrap around care.



Supportive housing options are needed because recovery is unique to each person.

The Hawai'i Supportive Housing Work Group was formed by the Hawaii Interagency for Homelessness through funding by the 2022 Hawaii State Legislature to establish a broad stakeholder group that could benefit from supportive housing, by pairing a housing unit with a rental subsidy and supportive services that fit the residents' needs.

- **This combination enables housing stability for community members with higher needs who may not be able to stay housed with a housing unit alone.**
- Local and national studies demonstrate the benefits of supportive housing on individual residents, our public systems, and our entire community.

SH is not formal treatment but has elements similar to treatment in that they involve peer support and other addiction recovery aids.¹ It's important to have various housing options for people because recovery is unique to each person.

¹ SAMHSA Affordable Housing Models and Recovery <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/affordable-housing-models-recovery>

SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery²

1. Choice - Making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional wellbeing.
2. Home—A stable and safe place to live.
3. Purpose—Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society.
4. Community—Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

Supportive Housing (SH) helps to develop and provide housing and related supportive services for higher needs people moving from homelessness to independent, supportive living.³ Program funds help homeless people live in a stable place, increase their skills and their income, and gain more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

Services include housing subsidies, transitional housing, outreach, case management, childcare, social skills development, job training/placement, health care, and transportation. Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can help with funding. Supportive housing combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities including substance use disorders and mental health disorders.

Study after study has shown that supportive housing not only **resolves homelessness** and increases housing stability, but also improves health and **lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly-funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons.**

- The SH model has been demonstrated to permanently keep the majority of persons who enter the program from ever becoming homeless again.
- A primary goal is to address those significant challenges to help people avoid future episodes of homelessness.
- It's a higher level than a shelter that often limits the hours when a person can be onsite resulting in homeless individuals wandering through the neighborhood during the day.

Core Components

Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community. There is no single model for supportive housing's design.

² SAMHSA's Working Definition of Recovery. <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//PEP12-RECDEF/PEP12-RECDEF.pdf>

³ HUD Exchange SHP Supportive Housing Program <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/shp/>

There are three approaches to operating and providing supportive housing:⁴


1. **Purpose-built or single-site housing:** Apartment buildings designed to primarily serve tenants with the support services typically available on site.
2. **Scattered-site housing:** People lease apartments in private market or general affordable housing apartment buildings using rental subsidies. They can receive services from staff who can visit them in their homes as well as provide services in other settings.
3. **Unit set-asides:** Affordable housing owners agree to lease a designated number or set of apartments to tenants who have exited homelessness or who have service needs, and partner with supportive services providers to offer assistance to tenants.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

⁴ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness: Supportive Housing. <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/supportive-housing/>



 808-733-7060
 808-737-4977

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1397, HD1, Relating to Supportive Housing

HEARING: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Joint Committees:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1397, HD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000

Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® believes everyone needs safe, decent and stable housing as housing and shelter is one of our fundamental needs. Supportive housing has proven to be a highly effective strategy that combines affordable housing with coordinated services to provide individuals with much needed services. As such, we support the creation of a supportive housing pilot program to help provide those without shelter a place to call home while providing them the support they need, especially for those with disabling conditions.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® supports this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY: SUPPORT HB 1397 HD1: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Tuesday, 3/14/23; 1:00 pm; CR 225 Videoconference**

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members, Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support of HB 1397 HD1**, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. 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 over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, people experiencing homelessness, 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.

This is a key bill for planning future housing and services to vulnerable populations in our state. Supportive housing is a growing need not only to address homelessness but also for the growing number of elders, developmentally disabled and other people who need housing and coordinated services. 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 and other high public costs.** The 2018 report that evaluated Honolulu's Housing First program (Pathways Project) found that **health care costs decreased by 76%, resulting in a cost savings of \$4,247/per person/per MONTH.** Incarceration costs showed a decrease of 40%-60%. Stable housing with regular services enables more preventative and ongoing care which can shift medical needs from the ER to regular out-patient settings.

This is a comprehensive bill that addresses one of our state's toughest community problems—homelessness. The rental subsidies, services and construction funds for affordable rentals in this bill are 3 key elements for success. This bill provides an even greater opportunity for success by establishing the Supportive Housing Pilot Program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The SOHHS can provide the collaboration and oversight to take this big step forward! By coordinating with state, county and community agencies, as well as developers, the SOHHS would have the tools needed to build successful supportive housing models. Developing successful models through this pilot program will benefit not only houseless individuals but other vulnerable populations who need these types of affordable housing with ongoing services.

The price may seem big, but our emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, prisons, and our streets are overwhelmed. By working to end homelessness, great savings can be achieved. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813 if you have any questions.



LATE

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 1:17:52 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick F. Hurney	Testifying for Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators

I strongly support HB 1397! We need to develop a pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals and families with special needs.

In this housing market, people with special needs are the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

Mahalo for your support!

Patrick F. Hurney

Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island.



LATE

To: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Committee on Housing
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair, Committee on Housing
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 225

RE: **HB1397 HD1 Relating to Supportive Housing**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1397 HD1**. This measure which would establish a supportive housing pilot program within the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions to provide and maintain affordable, permanent housing and services for individuals and families with special needs.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai`i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai`i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole person care includes addressing a variety of social determinants of health, including housing, economic stability, and nutrition among other factors. We understand that without housing, our members are less able to focus on their health and well-being. We applaud supportive housing as an innovative and proven solution, which combines housing with access to supportive services to help special needs populations. In fact, this measure complements the Community Integration Services (CIS) pilot program that AlohaCare is participating in, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to Medicaid-enrolled households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This measure would broaden the population eligible to receive supportive services to live more stable and productive lives.

We are grateful to the Committees for considering this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB1397 HD1**.

LATE

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:43:09 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Berk	Testifying for Fuller Lives Disability Housing Advocacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 1397. Our families with adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities need housing options as we are getting older and will not be able to care for them eventually. The ARC has homes but not enough of them. Planning for this group needs to be done now. A pilot program such as this could be the start for a framework to be created for supportive housing.

Thank You

Sue Berk

President Fuller Lives

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

LATE

Before:
Senate Committee on Housing
The Honorable Stanley, Chair
The Honorable Dr. Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

March 14, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 25 & Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1397, HD1, Relating to Supportive Housing

Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1397, HD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 1397, HD1.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 269,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Without a safe place to call home, it's nearly impossible to focus on basic health and medical needs. Kaiser Permanente is leading efforts to end homelessness and preserve affordable housing by making strategic impact investments, shaping policy, and catalyzing innovative partnerships. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports HB 1397, HD1 because the establishment of a supportive housing pilot program because funds for high-quality permanent supportive housing help reduce costs and construction time to deliver more units faster.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

LATE

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397 HD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee On Housing and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14th, 1pm Conference Room 225/videoconference

Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB 1397 HD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**. Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations, works on Oahu to end homelessness.

Matching services with affordable housing has been proven time and time again to be beneficial and cost effective for those experiencing homelessness across the nation and here in Hawaii. The issue of homelessness and affordable housing has touched every community in Hawaii and must be addressed with many solutions that have already been proven to be effective. The support services provided in tandem with the housing will decrease visits to the Emergency Departments in our hospitals, assist those coming out of incarceration from our prisons and improve the health and well being of those who are the most vulnerable in our community.

As the cost of housing continues to rise and units are difficult, programs such as the project proposed here will continue to assist our entire community. We do not feel that the cap of no more than \$500 may not be sufficient for this program and we encourage your committees to provide more flexibility to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in SUPPORT OF House Bill 1397 HD1.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Thielen
Executive Director
Partners In Care

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 5:20:38 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kenneth Fehling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I favor this bill since it will support housing for the Houseless people of Hawaii. Housing for the Houseless needs to provide flexible accomodations, within reasons, without restrictions that will prevent the houseless from using those facilties and choose to stay on the street where they are free to do as they please.

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:27:18 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1397 for providing a pilot program of supportive housing with necessary appropriations to develop that program.

Having been involved in services to homeless individuals in Honolulu for decades, it is clear to me that some of our homeless neighbors cannot be successfully "housed" unless they also have appropriate supportive services that help them stabilize and treat mental and medical illnesses, find a job, and work on behaviors that have held them back from being independent and self-sustaining. This pilot project will provide an opportunity to develop best practices, and serve as another tool in our efforts to address homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony, and for addressing our homelessness crisis.

Ellen Godbey Carson

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:38:21 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services,

I am in **STRONG** support of HB1397 HD1. We need this pilot project now more than ever, and I know that we will continue to need supportive housing programs desperately in the years to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 3:11:27 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimi Palacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1397 HD1. Recommending that the entities being provided with funding to distribute to organizations work with the Corporation of Supportive Housing (CSH), a National expert on the development of supportive housing projects throughout the Country with a wealth of information available for other States and Counties who are interested in developing effective, impactful, and sustainable programs. (<https://www.csh.org>) - here is what they do (from their website):

CSH makes a difference using six key strategies:

1. INNOVATE, MEASURE AND EVALUATE SMART SOLUTIONS

CSH develops and evaluates new models and demonstration programs that uncover innovative, data-driven methods to make supportive housing work better for more people—especially the highest-cost, highest-need individuals. We measure outcomes and evaluate impact so our work (and the industry’s best practices) are grounded in research.

2. ENGAGE AND INFLUENCE POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS

CSH builds relationships within federal, state and local governments to increase understanding and backing of supportive housing. We advocate for comprehensive policy and programs that help very vulnerable people receive the housing and coordinated services they need.

3. REFORM AND IMPROVE GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

CSH transforms how public agencies tackle complex and costly problems by coordinating targeted supportive housing solutions. We work with communities to shift public resources in a way that lightens the burden on systems, reduces public costs and improves outcomes for the people most in need.

4. FUND NEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

CSH infuses projects and initiatives that include supportive housing with funding that drives expansion and progress. Our financial support ensures a diverse set of supportive housing options and encourages the use of new financing models and architectural design.

5. EDUCATE AND EMPOWER STAKEHOLDERS

CSH's best practices, tools and trainings build capacity. With our Dimensions Quality leading the way, we help ensure that more communities are able to create and operate high-quality supportive housing.

6. LEAD AND EXPAND THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FIELD

CSH is leading the supportive housing industry into a strong and sustainable future. We shape the national supportive housing agenda and encourage growth in our field by making connections between supportive housing and the issues that matter to people, governments and communities.

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:06:51 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1397 HD1.

March 14, 2023

TO: Senate Housing and Health & Human Services Committees

FROM: Carl Takamura

Testimony in Support of H. B. 1397, H.D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing

My name is Carl Takamura and I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for H. B. 1397, H.D. 1, which would establish a pilot supportive housing program.

We are all well aware that Hawaii is in the midst of an acute housing crisis and that there is an urgent need to find solutions so that people can live safely and securely in homes with dignity. This is especially true for those who are homeless and at great risk of becoming homeless, such as individuals and families with limited income, kupuna on fixed incomes, veteran with emotional and physical disabilities, and the growing number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Included among the latter group are adults on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Without the help of their parents, who are aging and very concerned about the future of their adult children, many of these individuals with ASD may find themselves living on the streets of our communities.

A working group formed by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and composed of a broad cross section of our community, including advocates for the homeless and underserved populations, have made supportive housing recommendations, many of which are contained in H.B. 1397 and its companion measure, S.B. 1551. They did this because their research and experience have shown that providing housing for vulnerable individuals while assisting them to meet their mental, physical and other challenges is an effective homeless prevention strategy.

I urge your support for this important measure.

Mahalo,

Carl Takamura

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

State Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair, Committee on Housing
State Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services
Members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services

Testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, Relating to Supported Housing

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1397, H.D. 1. My name is Sandra Oshiro and I coordinate the Hawaii Young Adults in Transition, a support group for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

I am submitting written testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, which creates a pilot program to support and serve populations who are homeless or in danger of homelessness in the state. Among them are those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including those with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is a growing health issue. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it now affects 1 in every 44 children.

ASD is a lifelong disability. Many adults on the spectrum have difficulty finding employment as well as housing because of intellectual, social, and mental health challenges. Without the support of family members, including parents who are aging and will soon be unable to care for them, individuals with ASD can find themselves living on the streets.

For a good part of 2022, a broad-based work group brought together by House Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and representing advocates for the homeless, veterans, those with substance dependencies, and a host of other underserved populations met regularly to come up with supported housing recommendations for the Legislature's consideration. H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, reflects many of these recommendations.

Supported housing has been shown to effectively shelter vulnerable individuals while helping them address physical, mental, and other challenges that can otherwise result in a continuing cycle of homelessness.

Hawaii's housing crisis has defied government effort, with those at or below 30 percent of the area median income particularly underserved. This measure's comprehensive approach, including project-based rent supplements, significant rental housing revolving funds, resources for support services, and needed data collection, represents a major step in addressing what Gov. Josh Green has rightly declared a housing emergency.

As others have testified to previously, we ask that the committees closely consider the need for broad exemptions as called for in the bill from Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, covering rules governing supportive housing project awards. Transparency and public access are key to government trust, so a balancing of interests is necessary in addressing our housing crisis.

With passage of bills like H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, we can make measurable progress in ensuring affordable, equitable housing for those who are most in need. We look forward to your support.

Thank you,
Sandra Oshiro

HB-1397-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:54:28 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Miguel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senate Health & Homelessness/Housing committee

RE: HB 1357 HD1

Measure Title: Relating to Supportive Housing

I am in support of HB1397 - Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Permanent Support Housing (PSH) program is beneficial for vulnerable populations such as chronic homelessness who struggle with ongoing mental health or chronic health issues. The program may also address the growing issue of homelessness in our community. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2016) states that supportive housing show a 98% retention rate and allows houseless individuals to access housing and are less likely to use up community resources, such as emergency room visits, prison, and emergency shelters.

I hope to see funds appropriated toward establishing a supportive housing pilot program and to establish positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Kristine Miguel