

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

February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1397 – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2023, 11:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via videoconference, State Capitol

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

**PURPOSE:** The bill's purpose 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.

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 need. Additionally, there is a critical need for rental subsidies and services to support households with acute needs to maintain housing over time. 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.

The bill proposes that supportive services funding for the pilot be matched with federal Medicaid funds. The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is currently piloting the Community Integration Services (CIS) program, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to households currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. However, participation in CIS is limited to households currently enrolled in a Quest Integration (QI) managed care plan, 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.

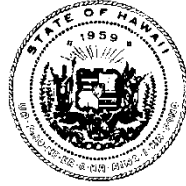
DHS notes the difference between supportive housing, as described in this measure, and the Housing First program, the permanent supportive housing (PSH) program currently administered by the Homeless Programs Office (HPO). The Housing First program specifically serves “chronically homeless” individuals 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.

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 may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly.

Therefore, developing a broader supportive housing program to serve individuals with special needs may require resources and additional time to plan amongst agencies, communities, and stakeholders; consequently, DHS suggests an extended effective date.

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

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  
**House Committee on Housing**  
and  
**House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

11:15 a.m., February 10, 2023  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 329

In consideration of  
**HB 1397**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Honorable Chair Hashimoto and Chair Belatti, and Members of the House Committee on Housing and House Committee on Health & Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1397, relating to supportive housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of HB 1397, 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. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 10, 2023

The Honorable Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair  
House Committee on Housing  
And  
The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Hashimoto, Representative Belatti, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: HB1397 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1397**, 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.

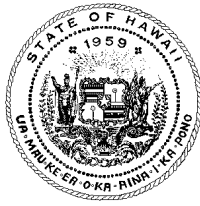
This pilot program will ensure that our community is supported with accessible decent housing, increasing their quality of life, encouraging independence, and promoting community participation.

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

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



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

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Michael J. Hoffman**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

**William F. Oku**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1397  
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

By

Tommy Johnson, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Housing  
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair,  
Representative Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

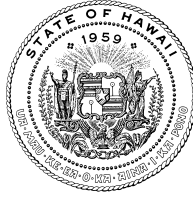
Friday, February 10, 2023; 11:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference

Chair Hashimoto, Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Aiu, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and  
Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 1397, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs within the Office of Homelessness and housing solutions, and appropriates funds for these purposes, including establishing positions needed to carry out the purpose of this measure.

This measure addresses several categories of persons with various housing challenges statewide and is innovative in its approach to this long-standing serious problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1397.



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  
**House Committees on Housing and Health & Homelessness**  
February 10, 2023  
11:15 a.m., Conference Room 329

In consideration of  
**House Bill 1397**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Aloha Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1397 and to offer comments on some provisions of the bill.

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, such as the Housing First program, which is focused on "chronically homeless" individuals – 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 do not qualify as "chronically homeless." Some do not meet the legal definition. Others may meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or 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.

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 suggest that the Committees consider not pegging rent supplements to a specific amount, as the needs of the target population may change along with the costs of project financing and operations. A more flexible approach might be to amend the language in Section 2.(d) to read: "...shall implement project-based rent supplement payments ~~of approximately \$500 a month,~~ at levels sufficient to fill the gap between the flat rents needed to cover project financing, operating, maintenance, or other costs, and an amount that targeted residents can afford..."

February 9, 2023  
Page Two of Two

With regard to Section 2.(e):

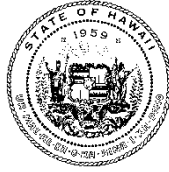
I defer to the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division on the feasibility and scalability of utilizing Medicaid funds to match state funds for supportive services.

Furthermore, I would stress the importance of exemptions that the bill provides from chapters 103D and 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, if the intent is to provide supportive housing and related services in a timely fashion.

Finally, given that the bill requires a great deal of planning and inter-agency coordination, I would request lengthening the effective dates related to implementation, including amending Section 2.(g) to require an interim report to the legislature by December 1, 2024 instead of 2023, and a final report by December 1, 2025 instead of 2024.

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba  
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness



**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](mailto:state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HOUSING  
AND  
HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
February 10, 2023, 11:15 AM

HOUSE BILL 1397  
RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Aiu, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1397.

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 16 to 19 set forth below.

*“The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall adhere to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the supportive service 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 needs to 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.

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



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
**HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 587-0620  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**  
February 10, 2023 at 11:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 329

In consideration of  
**H.B. 1397**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

HHFDC agrees that supportive housing is an innovative solution to house special needs populations, which includes the chronically homeless, individuals with disabilities, transitioning from incarceration, and those suffering from substance abuse.

The Governor's new coordinator on homelessness has the knowledge and experience to lead this worthwhile effort and we would like to **support H.B. 1397**, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (the Office) and facilitates coordination and cooperation among state housing agencies to assist the Office with implementation.

The pilot program contemplates the development of rental housing project(s) in which some or all of the units are targeted to special needs households who require supportive services and have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income. This measure covers the basic components that are critical for a PSH project to be successful – a onetime appropriation for the development and construction of the PSH project and funding streams to cover the other costs associated with this type of facility.

To assist in the development of the pilot project(s), this bill appropriates \$50 million in general funds to HHFDC's Rental Housing Revolving Fund, \$14 million in general funds to help cover anticipated operating and maintenance costs, and \$10.5 million to cover

the necessary on-site supportive programs to be offered, such as mental health, substance abuse, and counseling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Bill DeCosta  
Luke A. Evslin



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

February 9, 2023

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON

HB 1397, Relating to Supportive Housing  
House Committees on Housing  
and

Health and Homelessness

Friday, February 10, 2023

11:15 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Hashimoto and Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1397, Relating to Supportive Housing. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Council Vice Chair of the County of Kaua'i and Committee Chair of the Housing & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

HB 1397 would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the State Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions, and fund and establish positions. This Bill will provide and maintain affordable, permanent housing and services for individuals and families with special needs and allow them to live more stable and productive lives.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1397. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely

KIPUKAI KUALII  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

LY:jj



## **HB1397 Supportive Housing Pilot Project**

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair

Rep. Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

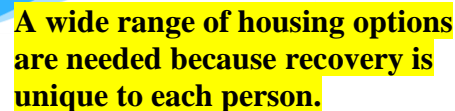
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 10, 2023 11:45: Room 329

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1397:**

*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.



**A wide range of housing options are needed because recovery is unique to each person.**

**Supportive Housing (SH) is community-based housing targeted to low-income households**

**with that combines housing with case management and wraparound care.** SH has elements similar to treatment in that they involve peer support and other addiction recovery aids.<sup>1</sup> It's important to have various housing options for people because recovery is unique to each person.

### **SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery<sup>2</sup>**

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.

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

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

**Supportive Housing (SH) helps develop and provide housing and related supportive services for people moving from homelessness to independent, supportive living.<sup>3</sup> 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 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 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 homeless individuals wandering through the neighborhood during the day.

## **Core Components**

**Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary 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.

There are three approaches to operating and providing supportive housing:<sup>4</sup>

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.

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

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





## HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Vonnell Ramos, President  
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President  
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer  
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

### Network Membership

*Bay Clinic*

*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i*

*Big Island Substance Abuse  
Council*

*Bobby Benson Center*

*Child and Family Service*

*Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i*

*Collins Consulting, LLC*

*Domestic Violence Action Center*

*EPIC `Ohana, Inc.*

*Family Programs Hawai`i*

*Family Support Hawai`i*

*Friends of the Children's Justice*

*Center of Maui*

*Get Ready Hawai`i*

*Hale Kipa, Inc.*

*Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.*

*Hawai`i Children's Action*

*Network*

*Hawai`i Health & Harm*

*Reduction Center*

*Ho`ola Na Pua*

*Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i*

*Ka Hale Pomaika`i*

*Kahi Mohala*

*Kokua Kalihi Valley*

*Kaua`i Planning and Action*

*Alliance*

*Maui Youth and Family Services*

*Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native*

*Hawaiian Health Care*

*Systems*

*P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.*

*Parents and Children Together*

*PHOCUSED*

*PFLAG – Kona, Big Island*

*Planned Parenthood of the*

*Great Northwest, Hawaii*

*Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*

*Residential Youth Services*

*& Empowerment (RYSE)*

*Salvation Army Family*

*Intervention Services*

*Sex Abuse Treatment Center*

*Susannah Wesley Community*

*Center*

*The Catalyst Group*

February 8, 2023

To: Representative Troy Hashimoto, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Housing

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1397 Relating to Supportive Housing.

Supportive housing is needed transition-age youth and young adults (ages 16 -24), especially those who are transitioning from foster care or have experienced homelessness.

These young people lack job skills and experience, have not completed their education, and have not yet learned the skills needed for successful adult living. They need safe supportive environments where they can learn skills that range from managing their medical care to parenting, have opportunities to graduate from high school and attend college or vocational training, and save funds needed for rent and deposit.

Ongoing rent subsidies would help many young adults who are earning minimum wage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:07:26 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Carney	Affordable Housing Connections LLC dba AHC Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Housing & House Committee on Health & Homelessness, on behalf of AHC Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in general support of HB1397. However, AHC is concerned that the proposed HPHA rent subsidy of \$500/mo. on page 4 lines 12-15 is not a large enough amount particularly for families that are houseless. This is taking into consideration that the HHFDC LIHTC published rents for incomes at or below 30% AMI are \$686 for a studio, \$735 for a 1 bedroom and \$882 for a 2 bedroom unit. These rent amounts include utilities.

In our experience, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) would likely be developed using LIHTCs and would depend on project based rent subsidies, and services which are funded for at least the first 15 years of the LIHTC program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our thoughts on HB1397.

Kevin R. Carney

President & Principal Broker

RB-16444

**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 2:11:29 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ludvina K Takahashi	Agency on Elderly Affairs	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1397 to establish a supportive housing pilot program to provide and maintain affordable, permanent housing and services for individuals and families with special needs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kealoha Takahashi



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: House Committees on Housing, and Health and Homelessness  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: **Friday, 2/10/23; 11:15 PM; CR 329 & Videoconference**

Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, and Members, Committees on Housing, and Health and Homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support of HB 1397**, 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.**

This is a comprehensive bill that addresses one of our state's toughest community problems—homelessness. Chronically houseless persons – generally those who have a documented disability and have been on the streets for over one year - need more than housing to successfully move off the streets. 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 this types of affordable housing with ongoing services.

The price may seem big, but studies have shown that supportive housing generates significant cost savings in public systems. 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 [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) or (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808) 373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)





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

February 10, 2023

**The Honorable Troy Hashimoto, Chair**  
House Committee on Housing

**The Honorable Della Au Bellatti, Chair**  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

**HEARING: Friday, February 10, 2023, at 11:15 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, 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, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

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.



I am writing in support of House Bill 1397, which provides funding and directs state agencies to work together to create a supportive housing pilot project.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing, CSH, is a national non-profit that works with communities across the country to produce supportive housing – safe, stable, deeply affordable housing with services – to help individuals and families recover from traumatic life events and thrive in communities. CSH firmly believes in the importance of making supportive housing a priority for those who are highly impacted, including those who experience homelessness and cycle through emergency and institutional settings. CSH has provided significant support in Hawai'i to help with policy to increase supportive housing and influence systems to collaborate that helps ensure the sustainability of units.

An analysis conducted by CSH indicates that Hawai'i needs an estimated number of 3,840 units of supportive housing for a number of specific populations as described in HB 1397. CSH recognizes that the need likely exceeds this amount as that study was released in 2018.

Additionally, with support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, CSH developed a framework on homelessness and housing that found state and local data from O'ahu show that while 51% of people experiencing homelessness identify as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 27.1% are represented in the overall state population data. It is important to note this, as the disproportionality of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders should be addressed in supportive housing development.

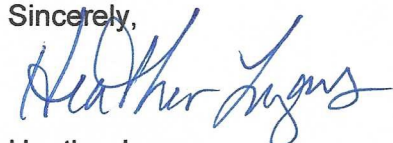
In this framework, CSH also listened to people with lived experience. While the conversations led to numerous insights, everyone indicated the need for community tied to supportive housing. As one person stated, "Community is super important – especially when getting over a traumatic event. We keep moving forward and having hope."

As described in the HB 1397, supportive housing improves individual and family lives, supports community health, and saves resources, particularly from crises responses such as emergency department and institutions, including carceral settings.

CSH is excited to see this move forward in Hawai'i, and considers the language in the bill as a model for other states and localities. CSH also supports all aspects of it, including direct funding for supportive housing, directing state agencies to work together to help sustain a supportive housing pilot project, and begin to create a much needed pipeline for marginalized people. We are also thrilled to see the organization cited in the bill and will continue to support state and local efforts to reduce homelessness as well as other traumatic experiences of people who would benefit from a supportive housing intervention.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1397.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Lyons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**LATE**



**Testimony of the Hawai'i Housing Affordability Coalition**  
**SUPPORTING HB1397**— Relating to Supportive Housing  
Conference Room 32 & Videoconference  
**Friday Feb 10th, 2023 at 1115AM**

Aloha Chair Hashimoto Chair Bellati and members of the House Committee on Housing and House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. HiHAC is in strong support of HB1397; Related to Supportive Housing.

Supportive housing is a proven solution to combating street homelessness. Supportive housing programs offer staff support and affordable housing for those in need of more support than is found in private market housing. This approach has positive benefits for both individuals and society as a whole. According to the Supportive Housing Working Group Report published in 2022 by the Statewide Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions, individuals who can access supportive housing services show improvements in housing retention, health, and quality of life. The Hawai'i Pathways Project had a housing retention rate of 90% and the Honolulu City and County's Housing First program rate remains at 86%. On a systems level, supportive housing services have proven to decrease healthcare cost by 76% and lower incarceration costs as well. A 2022 evaluation of the City Housing First Program observed that of the people who exited the supportive housing program, not a single participant entered incarceration for two years in a row..

Supportive housing investments are critical to prevent homelessness to those most vulnerable in our community.

HiHAC applauds the legislature for introducing this pilot program and hopes that there can be sustainable and long-term funding for this program such as the revenue proposed through conveyance tax reform in SB678.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.



**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair  
Rep. Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation is a Hawaii nonprofit organization that develops, owns, and operates affordable housing for very low to moderate income families, seniors and persons with special needs.

Over our 43-year history, we have partnered with nonprofit service providers to construct, acquire, or renovate 31 projects, providing 338 affordable permanent supportive housing units for very low-income persons with physical, intellectual, developmental and severe mental disabilities and other special need groups. All of these highly successful projects would not have been built and certainly would not exist today if not for the no or low-cost construction and permanent financing from government, support service contacts with the State of Hawaii and the project based rental assistance tied to the project.

Unfortunately, funding for permanent supportive housing is not as readily available as it was in the past. Therefore, we strongly support H.B. 1397 as this legislation is critical in creating new permanent supportive housing options for our most historically underserved population.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Audrey E. Awaya  
Executive Director



**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397

TO: Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, & Housing Committee Members  
Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, & HLT Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 10, 2023 (11:15 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 1397, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

As noted in the bills findings, supportive housing “combines affordable housing with access to services to help special needs populations, such as chronic homeless individuals and families, individuals with intellectual, developmental, physical or severe mental disabilities, individuals transitioning from incarceration, emancipated foster youth, individuals with an alcohol or drug addiction, and frail elderly individuals, live more stable and productive lives.” Supportive housing also results in significant reductions to emergency room visits, hospital stays, ambulance calls, and for tenants with criminal legal system involvement reductions in arrests and night in jail.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





The Institute for Human Services, Inc.  
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

**LATE**

**TO:** Honorable Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto  
Chair, House Committee on Housing  
  
Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Committee on Health and Homelessness

**FROM:** Connie Mitchell, Executive Director  
IHS, Institute for Human Services, Inc.

**RE:** HB1397 – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**HEARING:** Friday, February 10, 2023 at 11:15 am.

**POSITION:** IHS supports the passing of HB1397 with comments.

IHS, the Institute for Human Services has been providing emergency shelter services to adult men, women, and families with children on Oahu for over 40 years. Currently, IHS operates supportive housing solutions such as Kahauiki Village for families and kupuna, re-entry homes for formerly incarcerated, and kupuna bridge housing.

The transition from living unhoused to housed comes with a steep learning curve for many, this is especially true for our chronically homeless neighbors. Supportive Housing provides wrap-around support during the housing transition period and thereafter, providing individuals connections to stabilizing programs and/or supportive rehabilitation services that promote independent living and building a new network of support in the community.

During initial intake with service providers, homeless individuals are entered into the Coordinated Entry System and assessed for needs. These assessments highlight the types of support that households need to maintain permanent housing. Supportive services look different per client but can include: ongoing case management, employment support, navigating mental and physical health care systems to access and sustain treatment, financial literacy, nutrition, and interpersonal skill training. IHS delivers these services daily through our City-funded Housing First, HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing and Community Care Services (CCS) programs, helping individuals and families learn to live in their apartments and in new communities.

Recognizing the benefits of supportive housing, IHS strongly supports the continued focus on permanent supportive housing solutions. The leverage of federal Medicaid funds matching with State dollars in this measure is important as it funds such critical support services. Without these services, many of our most vulnerable households would be unable to break the cycle that persists even when given the opportunity to be housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

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

Friday, February 10, 2023

Hawaii Rep. Troy Hashimoto, Chair, Committee on Housing  
Hawaii Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Members of the House Committee on Housing  
Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1397. 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, which creates a pilot program to support and serve populations who are homeless or in danger of homelessness in the state. Among these individuals are those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including those with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is a growing health issue. Some call it an epidemic. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it affects 1 in every 44 children.

ASD is a lifelong disability. Many adults on the spectrum have a difficult time 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 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 and its Senate companion S.B. 1551 reflect many of these recommendations.

Supported housing has been shown to effectively shelter vulnerable individuals while helping them address physical, mental and other life challenges that can otherwise send them back to the streets and/or prevent them from becoming housed.

Hawaii has long been trapped in a housing crisis that seems to defy government effort, with those at or below 30 percent of the area median income particularly unserved. H.B. 1397'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.

With passage of bills like H.B. 1397, we can make measurable progress in ensuring affordable, equitable housing for those who are most in need. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
*Sandra Oshiro*  
ssoshiro@gmail.com

**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:48:35 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lindsay Ann Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committees:

My name is Lindsay Ann Pacheco and I am a member of the O'ahu Lived Experience Council (OLEC). Having spent nearly 9 years of being homeless here on O'ahu to now being housed for two years going on three years now, I can honestly tell you that it has not been easy to get this far.

I am also a current Housing First voucher recipient and in fact if wasn't for the supportive services that supportive housing programs such as Housing First provides, I would not have been able to successfully get clean and sober from using "ice", I would not have been able to re-enroll into college, I would not have been able to graduate last Spring Semester with my associate's degree, and I definitely would not be in pursuit of my Bachelor's degree in Social Work right now.

Measures such as HB1397 are very important for folks like myself who come out of chronic homelessness or even incarceration. A lot of times the services that are often provided are only to get folks like me into the door of a place to call home, not realizing that most of us will only end up back out on the streets without any kind of supportive services set in place to help not only with the transitioning of moving into a home, but also to help with the traumatization that a lot of us go through from also getting housed. Yes, it can be traumatizing for a lot of folks to get housed because of the disconnection from our homeless communities we lived amongst for years which provided us with safety and security as well as family like relationships with other homeless individuals. Once folks like me get housed we need that support system in place, it is vital to our future successes.

I strongly support HB1397.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lindsay Ann Pacheco

**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:11:03 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy Fowler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

I am in support of HB1397 and the creation of any and all committees, protocols, resources, and procedures that will begin to address housing needs in the state for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disability (ID/DD). There are such limited current resources for families that are in need of housing for someone with disability. This bill will hopefully expand awareness and understanding of critical needs and provide a framework for moving forward from identifying needs all the way through to implementation and creation of housing options on all the islands.

I am the parent of a daughter with profound ID/DD who is 25 years old and living in Colorado in something called a PCA home (person care attendant). I desperately would love to move my daughter here so that she can be with family and enjoy the warm winters that her body has grown to not be able to tolerate. But until there are resources available that would provide for a quality of life that she currently benefits from, I cannot do that to her. It is a growing problem, as families age out of being able to be caregivers and individuals with disabilities are living longer due to improved treatments/therapies. Families should not have to pick a member who has to stop working once their family member with disability ages out of the schools and does not have anywhere to go daily. There should be more options available to families than the current system provides. There should be a variety of housing options based on the level of need/severity of the individual with disability.

I am also provide physical therapy students through the Dept of Education on the island of Kauai and hear stories of families struggling to find options for their family members as they require more and more supports in both their homes and in the community. Our outer islands have just a small handful of ARCH homes, but no real creative options for inclusive and intentional communities that other states have begun creating. I would love to be involved with impacting change for our special needs community here in Hawaii... they are a valuable resource with much to offer!

Thank you for your consideration.

Cindy Fowler,

Kapaa (Kauai)

**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:26:51 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1397.

**HB-1397**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:16:50 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1397 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