

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2015

RE: H.B. No. 734  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 734, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the housing first voucher program within the Department of Human Services; and
- (2) Appropriate general funds to the housing first special fund to implement the program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Primary Care Association, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, The Queen's Health Systems, PHOCUSED, and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the housing first program has proven its success in many states as a way to more effectively address the chronically homeless. These homeless are often the most visible homeless, living in our neighborhoods, doorways, and under bridges. These persons experience homelessness over a long period of time and incur very significant public costs. Housing first assists them to gain permanent housing then provides the



services needed to keep them in housing and successfully transition off the streets.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting language that:

- (1) Defines "housing first program rental assistance payments";
- (2) Allows the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to make housing first rental assistance payments from sums made available from the Department of Human Services through the housing first program;
- (3) Authorizes the Department of Human Services to contract with housing first consultants and the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to effectuate the housing first program;
- (4) Amends the definition of "chronically homeless individual" to mean an individual who has experienced homelessness for one year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years and has a disability; and
- (5) Includes an effective date of July 1, 2050.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 734, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 734, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services and  
Housing,

  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services and Housing**  
**HSH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HB 734 HD1</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HSH, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">3/24/15</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)				✓
HARIMOTO, Breene	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3			2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted           <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;">Breene Harimoto</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes