

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
707 Richards Street, Suite 525  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 28, 2016

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

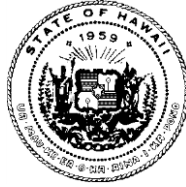
**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the measure.

Outreach to youth experiencing homelessness is an important foundational activity in building a trusting relationship that would lead to better outcomes. The outreach and relationship building are especially critical for hard to reach and resistant youth, including unaccompanied homeless youth, many who have suffered from trauma and/or other types of adverse childhood experiences. Unaccompanied homeless youth present complex risk factors that are difficult to address and requires an approach that is rooted in acceptance, trauma-informed and long-term advocacy.

OYS currently provides outreach and advocacy services for youth and families through purchase of service contracts statewide. Additional resources would bolster the continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services for additional outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 28, 2016

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed bill as it provides resources for enhancement of outreach which is a key function in our coordinated homeless service system. Enhancement of outreach was part of the Governor's Executive Budget that included a request for \$2 million for additional homeless outreach services, however it was not funded in the HB1700 HD1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate additional funds to the DHS for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Homeless outreach is currently funded by DHS at a statewide total of \$2,193,661. Eight provider agencies on every major island seek out homeless individuals and families living in unsheltered conditions or in places not meant for human habitation. Outreach workers interact with the homeless, administer the VI-SPDAT (a screening instrument that provides information about the individual or family's needs), and works hard to establish trust to move individuals and families toward permanent housing. It is the outreach workers who first hear the personal and individual histories of people experiencing homelessness. These outreach workers become a lifeline for the unsheltered because outreach work involves consistent and assertive engagement toward the end goal of housing and services.

Also included in the Executive Budget, but not funded in HB1700 HD1, was the request for \$250,000 for improvements of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Investing in the data collection system used by the providers of the Continuum of Care (CoC) will improve the ability to evaluate performance and better measure impacts of our communities' efforts to address homelessness. While the Department prefers the item be included in the Executive Budget, we asked that appropriation be included in the legislature's overall strategy to address and fund homeless efforts.

We defer to the Office of Youth Services on the particular impact this proposal may have on its services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure. The Coordinator notes that the Governor's Executive Budget included a request for \$2 million for homeless outreach services. However, this item was not funded in HB1700 HD1.

The Coordinator notes that, in addition to homeless outreach, a key component of the State's approach to addressing homelessness is investing in data collection to evaluate program performance. The administration included a request for \$250,000 in the Executive Budget for improvements of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), but this item was also not funded in HB1700 HD1. While the Coordinator would prefer this item to be included in the Executive Budget, the Coordinator respectfully requests that an appropriation for the HMIS be included in the Legislature's overall strategy to address and fund homeless efforts.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Office of Youth Services (OYS) for additional outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness per capita among the 50 states. In addition, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families has increased dramatically. Statewide, the number of

unsheltered homeless individuals increased 23% between 2014 and 2015, and the number of unsheltered family households increased 46% during this same period.

While the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families has risen dramatically, the level of funding for homeless outreach has remained unchanged. As a result, homeless outreach services are limited, particularly on the neighbor islands. For example, on Kauai, homeless outreach is provided by one part-time worker who is expected to provide services to the over-300 homeless individuals on that island.

Homeless outreach is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households where they are at and to build rapport so that they can be connected to housing and supportive services, such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, or shelter. The work of homeless outreach includes meeting homeless individuals on streets or sidewalks, or in remote rural areas that includes beaches and valleys. Homeless outreach providers assist homeless individuals to complete program applications, assist with the determination of program eligibility, assist with housing search, and work with the individual to obtain identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless outreach, many homeless individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

Further, when homeless individuals are removed from government properties or other restricted or unsafe areas, the role of homeless outreach is critical to ensure that homeless households have access to shelter, and are not simply moved from one unsafe living area to another. For example, in Kakaako Makai, the role of homeless outreach played a key role in assisting 215 out of an estimated 293 homeless individuals to access shelter or permanent housing between August and December 2015. This number included 27 individuals who transitioned directly to permanent housing from the Kakaako sidewalks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [KehaulaniLum@Ameritech.net](mailto:KehaulaniLum@Ameritech.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 7:25:27 AM

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**HB1774**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Lum	Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club and Living Life Source Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club and Living Life Source Foundation strongly support this measure and respectfully recommend a total appropriation of \$2,000,000 for outreach. This measure manifests the spirit of Aloha, and we are grateful to you for all that you can do to share it with our youth and their families. Mahalo nui loa, Kehaulani Lum President

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Committee: Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B.1774, H.D.1, S.D.1  
Relating to Homelessness

Dear Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 1774, H.D.1 S.D.1, which appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youth are among our most vulnerable populations. Multi-faceted outreach is greatly needed to address the specific needs of newly homeless youth, many of whom are running away from home, and who often do not know where to turn for support. ACLU of Hawaii supports this bill, which would provide necessary outreach to these families and youths to help them find alternatives to homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Finlay  
Advocacy Coordinator  
ACLU of Hawaii

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
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[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB 1774, HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair,  
and Members, Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/30/16; 9:00 AM; Conference Room 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support of HB 1774, HD1 SD1** which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth. I am Betty Lou Larson representing Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. A priority for advocacy this year is affordable housing and homelessness.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges the Committee to support funding of \$1,700,000 for outreach to homeless individuals and families, and \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth (via the Office of Youth Services).

More people are falling through the cracks in Hawaii. Outreach can provide the compassionate contacts and housing navigation to help people be linked to appropriate resources with housing as the goal. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc. Neighbor Island as well as Oahu providers are struggling to reach out to the increasing number of unsheltered homeless. Outreach is the first step to moving people into permanent housing. More funding is critical to reach these newly homeless and rapidly move them into shelters and other programs.

We must also help unaccompanied youth, especially those who are newly homeless. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii are for running away—averaging **4,493 per year!** These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. We need funding to DHS/Office of Youth Services to address this growing tragedy of kids living on the streets in Hawai'i. National statistics show a shocking severity:

- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems.
- 1 in 7 young people between the ages of 10 to 18 will run away.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness. If you have any questions, please contact me at 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org).



Catholic  
Charities  
USA



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



Aloha United Way



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Chair: Sen. Jill Tokuda

Vice Chair: Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 016

### **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 1774 SD1 - OUTREACH & SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 1774 SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services for additional outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this health and safety measure. The appropriation will increase the outreach to our youth. The relationships that are fostered by reaching out to youth help to build trust -- essential when assisting our young people to reach their best potential.

As Hawai'i Youth Services Network testified: *Street outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.*

Community Alliance on Prisons agrees and we hope that the committee does also! Support our youth today!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.





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March 29, 2016

To: Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Suzanne Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

### Re: HB1774 Relating to Homelessness----IN SUPPORT

Dear Senators Tokuda, Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow Hale Kipa to provide testimony in support of this bill. Hale Kipa is astutely aware of many of the youth/young people who find themselves homeless through its efforts providing street outreach, emergency and transitional housing to this population.

Outreach has been an essential component of locating and servicing youth who are homeless. These youth are extremely vulnerable as they are separated from families, and often fall prey to numerous risks while living on the streets which include lack of education, medical care and positive support systems and a higher opportunity to be involved in crime and be sexually and physically exploited.

Sadly, monies for outreach services to youth in Hawai'i has suffered losses in the last few years leaving less youth-friendly, trained outreach workers on the street able to best identify new youth and link them to needed resources.

Please consider passage of this bill which would begin to right-size the services needed to curb the growing tide of youth homelessness. Hale Kipa would be willing to continue to partner with all interested agencies in providing services for the youth.

Alika Campbell, MSW  
Program Coordinator



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org](mailto:lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 2:02:12 PM

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**HB1774**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorenn Walker	Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice	Support	No

Comments: We strongly support this measure to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services for additional outreach to serve homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. Mahalo for your public service. Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice

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# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

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

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of

Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services

Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

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O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

March 28, 2016

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1774 HD1 SD1 Relating to Homelessness.

While we support the full bill, our testimony will focus on unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth.

Unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth are living on the streets without the support and guidance of their parents or other family members. They are the most invisible and most vulnerable segment of the homeless population.

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide runaway and homeless youth collaboration. For the past 15 years, our partners have encountered 700 – 800 of these unaccompanied youth annually. Thirty percent (30%) of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for running away from home, an average of more than 4,400 arrests each year.

What happens to youth who are living on the street? Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep.

Homeless youth experience significant health challenges. They are:

- Twice as likely to get sick, be hospitalized, and go hungry.
- 7 times as likely to die from AIDS; 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV.
- 11 times as likely to experience mental health problems.
- 3 times as likely to experience major depression, conduct disorder, and PTSD.

- About 75% of homeless teens use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face.

Safety is a constant concern:

- Trauma and rape rates among unaccompanied youth are 2-3 higher than those of the general youth population.
- A U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services study found that 46% of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse. 17% left because of sexual abuse.
- 5,000 street youth die every year because of assault, illness, or suicide.
- Unaccompanied youth are more likely to be the victim of a crime rather than the perpetrator.

Most unaccompanied youth use unsafe sexual practices:

- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy experience.

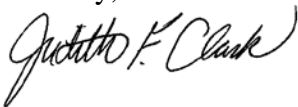
Street outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

If we want Hawaii's youth to grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed, we must reach out to our homeless adolescents and end youth homelessness.

Hawaii Youth Services Network believes that this bill is critically important for the health and safety of runaway and homeless youth who are disconnected from their families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith F. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" being the most prominent part.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Scott Fuji, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

**Testimony in Support of HB1773 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB1774 HD1 SD1 which would appropriate funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless individuals and families. For the last two years PHOCUSED has worked closely with both the public and private sector in addressing the growing issue of homelessness in our community.

This bill addresses our growing unsheltered homeless population. Besides ranking # 1 among the US states for homelessness per capita, Hawaii also has the highest rate of unsheltered chronic homeless. More people are falling through the cracks in Hawaii. Outreach can provide the compassionate contacts and housing navigation to help people be linked to appropriate resources with housing as the goal. Currently, outreach teams are stretched thin. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc.

We must also help unaccompanied youth, especially those who are newly homeless. Currently, there are no state funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth. Providers are trying to make do, taking staff from other projects. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away—averaging **4,493 per year!** These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. We need funding to DHS/Office of Youth Services to address this growing tragedy.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).



## Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

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### **TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice  
Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9 am Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Del Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The CHOW Project is in strong support of HB 1774 which would appropriate monies for outreach to the homeless. As you know, Hawaii has the HIGHEST rate of homelessness among states in the U.S. and resources to connect the homeless to services through outreach are an essential component of our continuum of care.

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. CHOW has successfully worked with Gregory House Programs over the years and is currently overseeing its Ryan White-funded activities. Our community is stronger because of programs like GHP and support for their case management activities will only make them more effective.

Throughout the past 20 years, the CHOW Project has used outreach to connect some of the most vulnerable in our community to services. While we hope that people will come to us for services, our data demonstrates that our approach to “meet people where they are” and take the services to the community has been immensely effective in linkage and access to care for those struggling with homelessness, addiction and mental and physical challenges. Please support this bill so that those who need help the most can be reached.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk  
Executive Director  
CHOW Project





# Hawaii Children's Action Network

Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

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### Address

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Honolulu, HI  
96813

P: (808) 531-5502

March 30, 2016

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 1774, HD1, SD1 Relating to Homelessness - Support**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211 – March 30, 2016 at 9 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB 1774, HD1, SD1 Relating to Homelessness.**

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

**HCAN supports HB 1774, HD1, SD1, which would appropriate funding for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. This bill currently contains a blank amount for outreach to homeless individuals and families with children, and \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth.**

**Homeless Children:** Hawaii has the highest homeless rate in the nation. It's estimated that one-third of the homeless in Hawaii are children.

Outreach to unaccompanied youth is especially critical. Currently there are no state or federal funds in Hawai'i for this outreach. Unaccompanied youth living on the streets have different needs and issues than homeless adults and families. They need outreach programs that are tailored to address their specific needs, and workers who understand adolescent development.

**Unstable Housing:** Many of our families may not be living on the street or the beach, yet they don't have permanent housing -- they stay with friends and family -- moving frequently.

**High cost of housing for families:** 60 percent of households with young children in Hawaii pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

We need a comprehensive affordable housing solution that helps families at every stage to secure stable housing solutions.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee to amend this bill by adding back \$1.7 million appropriation outreach for homeless individuals and families with children and keeping the \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth.**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us](mailto:gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 3:18:35 PM

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**HB1774**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Coelho Baisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Kaytie Huynh  
phon@hawaii.edu

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson  
And members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

SUBJECT: **HB1774 HD1 SD1, Relating to Homelessness**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT OF HB 1774, HD1.**

The purpose of this bill to appropriate additional funds to the Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services for additional outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Growing up in a single mother household with my two younger siblings, I see my mother had to work long hour shift and struggled financially in order to raise all of us. Every month, I see an large percentage of her paycheck goes to house rent. With my mom hard work, though with no child support from my father, my mother managed to raise all of us up under a roof and provide food on the table.

Unfortunately, not every family can manage to keep a house for their family due to many reasons. It could be an traumatic event that happen to their live such as loss of a loved one, job loss, divorce, etc. For example, a families that hardly can pay their bills, a serious illness or disabling accident may deplete their funds and push them out on the street. Or an unexpected loss of jobs and resultant foreclosures can cause them to live on the street.

I believed that these people need help and resources though sometimes they do not ask for help or do not know where to ask for help. We need to support and help these homeless when their life is in downfall and bring them back on their feet. Providing funding to help with additional outreach to homeless individuals and families will be a way to help the under-privilege getting their life back. Therefore, I strong support HB1774

Thank you very much for your time and giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion, experience and position on why I strongly support HB 1703.

Respectfully submitted  
Kaytie Huynh  
Phon@hawaii.edu

## **Testimony in Support of HB1774: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

To: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair and Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi Vice Chair;  
Committee on Human services

From: Shoneline Domingo, Individual

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:00 AM Room 211


Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

I, Shoneline Domingo, stand in strong support of HB 1774 which would appropriate funds towards outreach of unsheltered and chronically homeless individuals and children.

Hawaii's homeless population has been steadily increasing, and will continue to increase if the appropriate outreach measures are not taken. In order for these measures to be successful and effective, programs need sufficient funding to provide these services. I kindly, yet assertively request, that a large portion of these funds, go towards youth and young adult services. Children are the future of our state and of our nation, and should be provided every opportunity available to them. It is vital that we, as a community, protect and assist our neighbors, especially those without the ability to assist themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1774.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shoneline Domingo', written in a cursive style.

Shoneline Domingo