# HB 1774

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.	
Report Title:	Homeless; Outreach; Youth; Appropriation (\$)	
Description:	Appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services. (HB1774 HD1)	
Companion:	<u>SB2340</u>	
Package:	None	
Current Referral:	HMS, WAM	
Introducer(s):	MORIKAWA, CREAGAN, JOHANSON, KOBAYASHI, LOWEN, MIZUNO, SAIKI, TAKUMI, DeCoite, Evans, Hashem, Onishi, Oshiro	



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH DIRECTOR

> PANKAJ BHANOT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

# STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 13, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1774 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016; 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 016, 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. We note, that the Governor's Executive Budget includes a request for \$2 million for additional homeless outreach services, and request that the legislature support the Governor's priority as identified in the Executive Budget.

**<u>PURPOSE</u>**: 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.

SB 2340 is the companion measure to HB1774 HD1. The differences between the two bills are that the House deleted the specific appropriation amounts, defected the effective date, and made stylistic technical amendments.

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

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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.

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 15, 2016

TO:	The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services	
FROM:	Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness	
SUBJECT:	HB 1774 HD1 - RELA Hearing:	<b>TING TO HOMELESSNESS</b> Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.
	-	Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION**: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request, which includes \$2 million for homeless outreach, and defers to the Department of Human Services and the Office of Youth Services in regard to specific issues related to contracting and implementation of homeless outreach services.

**PURPOSE**: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate additional funds to the Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services.

SB 2340 is the companion measure to HB1774 HD1. The House committee on Human Services deleted the specific appropriation amounts, defected the effective date, and made some stylistic technical amendments.

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 increased, 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 and to build rapport so that individuals and families may 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 individuals 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 the existing systems to achieve sustained housing.

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.

Phone: (808) 587-5710 Fax: (808) 587-5734



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

#### March 14, 2016

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1774 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 1:15 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. 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.

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 additional funds to the Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide outreach services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Alan M. Arakawa Mayor



KEITH A. REGAN MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Keʻena O Ka Meia COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

# TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

### BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 1:15 p.m. (Conference Room 016)

### HB 1774, HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Honorable Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

\_\_\_\_\_

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

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional funds to the Department of Human Services for homeless outreach, including for homeless unaccompanied youth.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- 1. The State of Hawaii has a homeless crisis, which sadly includes an increasing number of unaccompanied youth. With an estimated 7,620 people living on the streets, parks, beaches and in shelters, Hawaii has the unenviable distinction of having the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the country, as well as the highest rate of chronic unsheltered homeless per capita of any state.
- 2. In Hawaii, statistics show that thirty percent of juvenile arrests were for running away. Teenagers living on the streets, in parks and on our beaches are especially vulnerable to substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and experiencing mental health problems. Homeless youth are also at risk to being lured into prostitution.
- 3. It is my understanding that there is currently no state funds specifically appropriated for outreach to our homeless unaccompanied youth.

For these reasons I strongly support HB 1774, HD1.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
То:	HMS Testimony
Cc:	bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM*
Date:	Sunday, March 13, 2016 12:44:01 PM

Submitted on: 3/13/2016 Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Lou Larson	Catholic Charities Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HMS Testimony
Cc:	<u>kat.caphi@gmail.com</u>
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date:	Monday, March 14, 2016 2:24:25 PM

Submitted on: 3/14/2016 Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	U	Testifier Position	Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Human Services Committee! Please support all funding for our most vulnerable and struggling people. Community Alliance on Prisons cannot emphasize enough the importance of services to this population. We are concerned about homeless youth and want to ensure that they receive the services they need to reach their fullest potential. Please pass HB 1774 HD1! Mahalo nui. Kat Brady Coordinator

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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Director of Human Resources

Heidi Cregor Past Chai

Susan Y.M. Utsugi

March 11, 2016

To: Committee on Human Services Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

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

Dear Senators Chun Oakland, Riviere, 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. Also please consider reinstating the \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth as well as setting the effective date to 2016. Hale Kipa would be willing to continue to partner with all interested agencies in providing services for the youth.

Alika Campbell, MSW **Program Coordinator** 









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March 15, 2016

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Address 850 Richards Street Suite 201 Honolulu, HI 96813

P: (808) 531-5502

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director

Senate Committee on Human Services

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re:HB 1774, HD1, Relating to Homelessness - SupportHawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016 – March 15, 2016 at 1:15 PM

# On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB 1774, HD1, 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 <a href="http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda">http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda</a>.

HCAN supports HB 1774, HD1, which would appropriate funding for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. But prefers the language in SB 2340, which includes \$1.7 million for outreach to homeless individuals and families, 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 appropriations into this version.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <u>http://www.hysn.org</u> E-mail: <u>info@hysn.org</u>

Rick Collins, President Judith F. Clark, Executive Director March 11, 2016 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii **Bobby Benson Center** Central Oahu Youth Services To: 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. Hawaii Student Television Hui Malama Learning Center Kokua Kalihi Valley Life Foundation Marimed Foundation Maui Youth and Family Services P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc. Parents and Children Together (PACT) Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands Salvation Army Family Intervention Services Sex Abuse Treatment Center Susannah Wesley Community Center The Catalyst Group Uhane Pohaku Na Moku O Hawai`i • Waikiki Health .

o: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, And members of the Committee on Human Services

# <u>TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774 HD1 RELATING TO</u> <u>HOMELESSNESS</u>

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1774 HD 1Relating to Homelessness.

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

The Senate version of the bill allocated \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth, while in the House bill, the funding amount is blank. We believe that \$300,000 is an appropriate amount of funding and recommend inserting this allocation into HB 1774. In addition, HB 1774 has a defective date of July 1, 2050, which should be changed to July 1, 2016.

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,

Juditho F. Clark

Judith F. Clark, MPH Executive Director



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

- TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance
- FROM: Greg Payton, Chair of Legislative Advocacy Committee, Partners In Care.

#### Hearing: Thursday, 2/25/16; 1:00 pm; CR 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774, which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth. I am Greg Payton, serving as Chair of the Legislative Committee for Partners in Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care dedicated to ending homelessness.

**HB 1774** addresses Oahu's growing unsheltered homeless population. Honolulu ranks first among U.S. states for homelessness per capita. Outreach can provide the engagement contacts and housing placement to help people be linked to appropriate resources. Homeless Outreach teams on Oahu are receiving the same amount of funds that were available in 2010, and yet homelessness has risen 25%. Partners In Care has learned through data analysis that strategic outreach is needed to address targeted areas, such as homeless encampments and specialty populations; e.g., families with youth.

<u>Unaccompanied youth</u>, are among the alarming new homeless:

- Currently, there are <u>NO dedicated state funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth</u>.
- Providers manage youth homeless outreach by borrowing outreach staff members from other funded projects.

<u>Incidence and Prevalence</u>. The following facts are helpful in understanding the issues about homeless runaway youth:

- 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away.
- Hawaii's 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.
- 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.
  - Teens aged 12 to 17 are more likely to become homeless than adults.

Partners In Care supports this version of the bill previously passed, including \$1,700,000 for outreach to homeless individuals and families, and \$300,000 for outreach to unaccompanied youth. Thank you for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 529-4554, or at gpayton@mhkhawaii.org if you have further questions.

PARTNERS IN CARE c/o Aloha United Way 200 North Vineyard •Suite 700•Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 PartnersInCareHawaii.org



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

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#### TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Fuji, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:15pm in Conference Room 016

#### Testimony in Support of <u>HB1774 HD1, RELATING TO</u> <u>HOMELESSNESS</u>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB1774 HD1 which appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families including homeless unaccompanied youth. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholder to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless individuals and families. PHOCUSED strongly supports the original appropriation in this measure of \$2 million to general outreach with a \$300,000 carve out to specifically target unaccompanied homeless youth.

Since March 2014, PHOCUSED has worked together with 30+ homeless service providers throughout Oahu for better coordination of housing placements for the homeless. Based on this experience, we have a deeper understanding of the many challenges facing homeless households who are trying to transition off of the streets and into a stable residence.

On Oahu outreach teams have been rapidly dispatched to "hot spot" encampment areas such as Kakaako, Kewalo Basin, Wahiawa, and others to ensure the accurate dissemination of information, offer services, and encourage the individuals and households there to work with them to permanently leave the streets.

This work has required additional coordination of outreach and would not have been readily available without a regular meeting of outreach providers to ensure that our limited resources were being placed in the most efficient means possible. However increased outreach in one area of the island often comes at a cost to another area. As outreach is the first step at engaging with and moving a household off the streets and into permanent housing it is a critical piece of our growing Coordinated Entry and Housing Placement system.

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 <u>admin@phocused-hawaii.org</u>.

Submitted on: 3/13/2016 Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camille Bourcier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill.

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HMS Testimony
Cc:	dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM*
Date:	Monday, March 14, 2016 12:38:32 PM

Submitted on: 3/14/2016 Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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