

SB2086

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Housing; State Rent Supplement Program; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for the State Rent Supplement Program for working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing, subject to certain conditions. Specifies that the maximum rent supplement is \$500 per month per household.
Companion:	
Package:	Housing and Homeless Legislative Package
Current Referral:	HOU, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, HARIMOTO, Baker, Galuteria, Keith-Agaran



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2086 – RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2016, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it proposes to provide funding to address key aspects of the state's work to end homelessness. However, the Coordinator's support is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

The Coordinator notes that the shallow rent subsidy program described in the bill is similar to the Rapid Re-Housing program in the Governor's Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Executive Budget request, which includes \$2 million for Rapid Re-Housing.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funding of \$2 million to the Department of Human Services for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program for homeless working individuals and families who are ready to rent permanent housing.

The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) as to specific details related to the implementation of the proposed program.

The Coordinator also notes that this measure is in alignment with Goal 2, Objective 4 of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness' Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, which is

to “Create and preserve affordable housing for people at 50% and below of area median income.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR

PAULA A. YOUNGLING
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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**TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

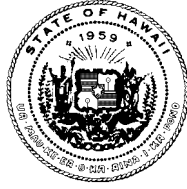
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HOUSING**
Thursday, February 4, 2016, 2:45 p.m.

**SENATE BILL 2086
RELATING TO HOUSING**

Chair Harimoto, Vice-Chair Galuteria, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2086. The State Procurement Office's (SPO) comments are limited to SECTION 1, PAGE 2, Line 5 of this bill, which proposes that the appropriation be expended for "staff within the homeless programs office and for program and administrative costs associated with establishing and operating the shallow subsidy program" through a contract issued pursuant to HRS chapter 103F.

If the appropriation is for administrative/operating costs, then it is more appropriate that the services be procured in accordance with HRS chapter 103D. HRS chapter 103F would apply if the health and human services are for communities, families, or individuals which are intended to maintain or improve health or social well-being, and the services are provided directly to a targeted clientele, i.e., assessment, treatment, diagnosis, prevention and education services.

Thank you.



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

February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2086 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 4, 2016; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide funding to address the State's homeless crisis; however, we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal and its impact on the priorities in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is appropriate funding of \$2 million to the Department of Human Services for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program for homeless working individuals and families who are ready to rent permanent housing.

The Department notes that in discussion with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), HPHA currently operates a state-wide rental subsidy program funded at approximately \$1 million. The HPHA program is currently operated with 1.25 FTE, however, at one time the program was staffed by 5.0 FTE. The DHS is not certain whether the proposed rent subsidy program is intended to supplement the HPHA program or to supplant it. We would need to exercise caution about transferring the existing program staffed by civil servants and offering it via a contract in accordance with Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There are a number of measures this session that propose a similar program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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: **Thursday February 4th, 2016 at 2:45 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 225**

Testimony in Support of SB2340, RELATING TO HOUSING

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB2086 that appropriates \$2 million for the creation of a shallow rent subsidy program. 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.

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.

In the data collected across Oahu it is clear that there is no one solution to ending homelessness in our state. Many tools are required to assist households struggling with homelessness break this cycle and enter into permanent housing and targeted approaches such as the shallow rent subsidy is one more tool to add to the State's toolbox. Across Oahu alone there are nearly 500 families currently experiencing homelessness that have some form of income coming in that are unable to afford rent. A shallow rent subsidy program would help these families get into and maintain permanent housing and give them the foundation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

The shallow rent subsidy program proposed by SB 2086 is intended to help working households who do not need a deep subsidy to secure or maintain housing, but without some financial assistance (capped at \$500 per month) will become or remain homeless. There is a high need for this kind of support—according to a report by Civil Beat, among homeless families, 50% of them are homeless because they were short money to pay rent and had no other underlying issues.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Cc: graybip@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2086 on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:22:32 PM

SB2086

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HOU on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Graybill	FACE	Support	No

Comments: I support this provision of rental assistance to low-income people. This is a great way to give working poor, families and homeless people a stable and safe place to stay.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2086: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair; and Members, Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, 2/4/16, 2:45 PM; Room 225

Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members, Committee on Housing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2086, making an appropriation for a shallow rent subsidy program in the Department of Human Services. I am Betty Lou Larson, from Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii 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 Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness. A priority for advocacy this year includes establishing a shallow rent subsidy program.

We support **\$2 million** for a shallow rent subsidy program. This promotes the rapid rehousing of families and individuals who are working. Often they are stuck in transitional or emergency housing since their work income is not enough for a market unit. By providing a small rental subsidy, these working people will become permanently housed, opening up space in shelters for more families. This not only addresses family homelessness, it better utilizes shelter space.

This rapid rehousing addresses the critical needs especially of homeless families with children. These families need permanent housing to stabilize their children's education. Since they are working, they can afford rent, just not a market rent. They do not need a deep subsidy, but without this proposed program, they would remain homeless for an extended period of time. The subsidy (capped at \$500/month) would move them rapidly into a permanent rental.

We urge your support for this new, creative path out of homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 373-0356 • bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Cc: KehaulaniLum@Ameritech.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2086 on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:37:07 AM

SB2086

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HOU on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Lum	Aliʻi Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Harimoto and Vice Chair Galuteria, As the President of the Aliʻi Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club and an ardent advocate for affordable housing in Hawaiʻi Nei, I am writing in strong support of S.B. 2086, which appropriates \$2m for creation of a Shallow Rent Subsidy program. In order for the people of Hawaiʻi, and Native Hawaiians, in particular, to continue to call these islands "home," this type of support is desperately needed. This measure is Aloha in practice, and we seek your steadfast kokua to achieve its vision. Mahalo nui loa, Kehaulani Lum

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Cc: leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2086 on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:44:51 AM

SB2086

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HOU on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Cc: bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2086 on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:17:56 PM

SB2086

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HOU on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandee Menino	Hope Services Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Please be sure program funds are available for neighbor island communities as well, and especially for Hawaii County. Mahalo

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February 4, 2016

The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chair

Senate Committee on Housing
State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 2086, Relating to Housing

HEARING: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:45 p.m.

Aloha Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,800 members. HAR **supports the intent** of S.B. 2086 which appropriates funds for the State Rent Supplement Program for working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing, subject to certain conditions and specifies that the maximum rent supplement is \$500 per month per household.

According to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, nearly 66,000 housing units are needed to meet long-term demand over the next ten years. Not only do we need more affordable homes, including rentals, to meet today's needs of our working individuals and families.

While soaring prices have made housing the brightest spot in our Hawaii economy, they have also put affordable housing beyond the reach of our kama'aina – and not just the indigent and working poor. Today's face of affordable housing is not just our homeless, but our child's schoolteacher, our fire fighter, nurse and police officer as well.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2086 Relating to Housing
Senate Committee on Housing
Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, February 4, 2016, 2:45 PM, Room 225

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

Dear Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2086, which appropriates \$2 million for the creation of a shallow rent subsidy program.

Hawaii has the highest homelessness rate in the nation, and the problem continues to worsen. We need to adopt proven, cost-effective solutions to address homelessness. A shallow rent subsidy program such as the one proposed by SB 2086 is exactly what we need.

Homelessness affects a wide range of households, from those who are extremely low-income, to those that are working and have steady incomes, but who can just not quite make ends meet given Hawai'i's high cost of housing. Without the stability afforded by a home, these families who are on the cusp of financial stability will never be able to quite make it. However, with a small, short-term financial boost, coupled with case management services aimed at increasing the household's income and improving financial management, people will have a true opportunity at self-sufficiency.

The shallow rent subsidy program proposed by SB 2086 is intended to help working households who do not need a deep subsidy to secure or maintain housing, but without some financial assistance (capped at \$500 per month) will become or remain homeless. There is a high need for this kind of support—according to a report by Civil Beat, among homeless families, 50% of them are homeless because they were short money to pay rent and had no other underlying issues.

Shallow rent subsidy programs are a proven, cost-effective tool in combating homelessness. Since the subsidy is shallow, a relatively small appropriation can help a relatively large number of households out of homelessness. Shallow Rent Subsidies are designed to be short term. Coupled with appropriate case management services, Shallow Rent Subsidies can take a struggling family out of homelessness and set them on the path toward self-sufficiency. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. Shallow subsidies are a relatively low-cost, short-term intervention that can be a permanent solution to homelessness for many Hawai'i families—Hawai'i needs such a program.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2086 on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 12:08:56 PM

SB2086

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HOU on Feb 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As someone who has worked with individuals and families experiencing homelessness for 10+, I strongly support the creation of a fund to provide shallow rent subsidies. Homelessness is a complex problem that requires multiple solutions (there is no "silver bullet"). Many of the people experiencing homelessness in Hawaii are working and just don't make enough money to meet their monthly expenses. The provision of short-term rental assistance will allow individuals and families to get in to housing (either as a transition from a shelter or directly from the streets).

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