



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2016

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

The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2558 – RELATING TO AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it supports key aspects of the state's efforts to address homelessness. However, the Coordinator's support of this measure is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) with regards to issues relating to the administration of homeless programs, including shelter. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, the DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is responsible for the administration and implementation of homeless programs.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$5 million in general funds for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the cost of developing emergency and transitional shelters and non-recurring costs of other homeless projects and programs. The bill would also reduce the general fund appropriation under Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii of 2015, to the emergency and budget reserved fund by \$5 million, and would require DHS to submit reports based on the expenditures of the appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.