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**DEPT. COMM. NO. 259**

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

Hand-Delivered

January 3, 2018

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki  
Speaker and Members of the House  
of Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Reports from Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Department of Human Services

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and members of the Legislature,

Attached are additional reports submitted in accordance with:

- Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account, and
- Section 346-381(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes, Regarding the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, copies of these reports have been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library and the reports may be viewed electronically at <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Deputy Director

January 3, 2018

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Cc: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
Representative John M. Mizuno, House Committee on Health & Human Services  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library

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Office of the Governor

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Budget & Finance

Legislative Auditor

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2018**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,  
ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL ACCOUNT**

**Child Welfare Services Branch, Social Services Division  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
December 2017**

## I. Background

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Act 232 specified *"the proceeds of the account shall be reserved for use by the department of human services for staff programs and grants or purchases of service . . . that support or provide spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention as authorized by law."* The funds originally came from fees for marriage licenses.

Act 216 of the Nineteenth Legislature, 1997, increased the amount allocated to SCASA adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

Act 177 of the Twenty-First Legislature, 2002, further increased the amount allocated to SCASA by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow DHS to fund additional program needs. The ceiling was further raised to \$610,000 per Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008.

The SCASA funds are administered by DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS). DHS is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, providing an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the account.

**II. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 BUDGET**

A. Balance on 7/1/16	\$315,041.61
B. SFY 2017 REVENUE	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	
Miscellaneous	
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	
Subtotal Revenue	\$595,015.17
Total Revenue	\$910,056.78
C. SFY 2017 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBERENCES	
1. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care – Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$56,347.04
2. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$257,614.75
3. Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors and their Children	\$80,000.00
4. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel	\$4,794.98
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$41,839.09
6. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$23,832.96
7. CWS Continuous Quality Improvement	\$189,993.42
8. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$88,088.55
9. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$34,000.00
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	\$776,510.79
Carry-over to SFY 2018	\$133,545.99

**III. SFY 2018 BUDGET**

E. Balance on 7/1/17	\$133,546
F. SFY 2018 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue all sources	\$520,454
Total Projected Revenue	\$654,000
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2018	
1. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care – Catholic Charities Hawaii	\$100,000
2. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$100,000
3. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services	\$100,000
4. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$100,000
5. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$40,000
6. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$40,000
7. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$40,000
8. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$34,000
9. Action Strategy: Framework Institute	\$15,000
10. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$25,000
11. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	\$30,000
Total Planned Expenditures	\$624,000
Projected Balance	\$30,000

#### **IV. SFY 2017 Outcomes**

##### **1. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care – Catholic Charities Hawaii**

CWS used funds to support specialized services for medically fragile infants and toddlers in foster care. The program works with birth parents and resource caregivers to transition the care of the infant or toddler to a more permanent setting. Specially-trained caregivers work with the child's doctors, teach and train birth parents or other caregivers the specialized care the child requires, and supports the parent/caregiver in daily care of the child.

In SFY 2017, 18 young children and their families benefited from this program. Without it, these children would have remained in hospitals or other institutional settings, decreasing the likelihood of returning home to their family.

##### **2. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.**

Family Wrap Hawaii Services are provided to families with children in foster care. The children may be able to be reunified with their family, however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program are engaged with multiple agencies which help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and/or substance use; others have children with behavioral challenges and physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma, and additionally have learning differences that are difficult to address. Family Wrap Hawaii Services brings all these agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. It coordinates services with the providers and the family to develop creative ways to remove the barriers to reunification. CWS works with DOE, DOH, Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to return to their family.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2017, 26 children in foster care were able to safely reunify with their families. Families expressed feeling profoundly supported by the Family Wrap Hawaii Services, and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received.

##### **3. Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors and their Children**

CWS used SCASA funds in SFY 2017 to help 13 families, who were survivors of domestic violence, with transitional housing needs. Without this support, these families may have been forced to live on the street or in a homeless shelter due to their lack of resources and support.

#### **4. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel**

DHS used SCASA funds to financially support the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) which is required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The purpose of the CRP is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities by (1) examining the policies, procedures and practices of the State, and (2) reviewing specific cases, where appropriate. Funding provides airfare for neighbor island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. This allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining the Child Welfare Services (CWS) systems and making recommendations for improvements.

In SFY 2017, Hawaii's CRP focused on improving CWS' engagement of fathers, and enhancing the frequency, quality, and documentation of CWS workers' monthly visits with children in foster care. Improved engagement of fathers will result in positive outcomes for the child's wellbeing and increase the rate of reunification.

National research indicates that enhancing social workers' visits with children has innumerable positive benefits, including: reduced incidents of harm to children while they are in foster care; improved child wellbeing; decreased time to family reunification or adoption; increased identification and addressing of children's physical, emotional, academic, and health needs; and increased parent and sibling contact.

#### **5. CWS Management Leadership Team**

SCASA funds were also used to fund the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiative which brings together CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors statewide, once a quarter. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans to enhance services to CWS children and families; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, and reviews statewide and local data and its implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

In SFY 2017 the MLT focused on improving statewide performance on the standard national CWS data measures. These criteria delineate three primary areas within CWS – Safety, Permanency, and Wellbeing – into 18 measurable objectives. The planned effort and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will lead to improved practice and services which will ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

## **6. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide**

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Hawaii hosts an annual conference which features national and local experts presenting on a wide range of CWS-relevant topics, such as teen dating violence, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, evidence-based practices in child welfare, culturally-informed service-delivery, and the use of psychotropic medication with foster youth. The contribution of CWS to the conference funding also allowed nearly 25% of CWS staff to attend this learning opportunity. The support of CWS to bring this conference to its staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice, especially since CWS staff and community providers cannot easily attend mainland conferences. Increasing our staff's knowledge and experience enables them to better serve our children and families.

## **7. CWS Continuous Quality Improvement**

In order for CWS to ensure the quality of its services to families, and continue to keep children safe, CWS contracts with the University of Hawaii, Maui College to run statewide quality improvement activities. In SFY 2017, this project completed a statewide case review of 99 sampled cases, in addition to seven targeted reviews on case management issues, such as potential causes for delays in adoption and the consistency of criminal background checks for resource caregivers. The data from these reviews has proven invaluable as CWS works to improve its practices.

## **8. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center**

Federal Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PSTSF) (2014), requires Child Welfare Services in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompanied the PSTSF Act. CWS used these funds to offer counseling, advocacy and support to trafficked children throughout the State by trained and experienced individuals working with this specialized population.

These contracted services supported 22 trafficking victims in SFY 2017. Without these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer significantly more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

## **9. DAGS Special Fund Assessment**

DHS paid \$34,000 to the Department of Accounting and General Accounting for the Special Fund Assessment as required by statute.

## **V. Planned Use of Funds for SFY 2018**

### **1. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care – Catholic Charities Hawaii**

Please see Section IV.1 above for program description. In SFY 2018, CWS plans to serve approximately 20 infants and toddlers and their families.

### **2. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.**

Please see Section IV.2 above for program description. In SFY 2018, CWS plans to serve an additional 30 children.

### **3. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services**

Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services is a core service that CWS provides to families who have children in foster care. These services help the families acquire the skills and information they need in order to have their children returned to their care. The array of services provided is broad and includes: assessment, individualized program planning, parenting education, crisis intervention, counseling, supervised visitation, budgeting, practical life skills enhancement, nutritional assistance, transportation, advocacy, resource development, family management skills development, and clinical therapy. Unfortunately, there are often waitlists for these crucial services. With more funding for these contracted services, waitlists will be reduced, families will receive the necessary services sooner, and children in foster care will be reunified with their parents at a faster rate.

### **4. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center**

Please see Section IV.8 above for program description. CWS plans to serve approximately 25 minor trafficking victims through this contracted service in SFY 2018.

### **5. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide**

Please see Section IV.6 above for program description. CWS plans to continue to contribute to the funding of this annual conference, including the attendance of a significant portion of CWS direct-service staff.

### **6. Hawaii State Citizen's Review Panel**

Please see Section IV.4 above for program description. DHS plans to continue its federal obligation to fund this Citizen's Review Panel.

In SFY 2018, the Citizen's Review Panel plans to embark on public awareness campaigns on the issues of minor sex trafficking and substance-exposed children.

## **7. CWS Management Leadership Team**

Please see Section IV.5 above which outlines the purpose of CWS Management Leadership Team. In SFY 2018, CWS continues its work in its Management Leadership Team of focusing on national measures and standards as CWS is entering its third federally-mandated Program Improvement Plan, based on a thorough statewide assessment of cases and systemic factors.

## **8. DAGS Special Fund Assessment**

In order to remain current with its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay \$34,000 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment.

## **9. Action Strategy: FrameWorks Institute**

DHS is currently working on a private public partnership to develop a strategic action plan and public outreach campaign to end family violence in order to best serve the community and support our staff. The FrameWorks Institute has expertise in this area and will provide strategic guidance and professional growth to the Branch and community providers.

## **10. DV Training and DV Fatality Review**

In SFY 2018, CWS is collaborating with other agencies and community providers to develop and implement a statewide training on working with families who are experiencing domestic violence. Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are also struggling with domestic violence.

## **11. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)**

CWS is part of a statewide multidisciplinary group of professionals, largely from other State agencies, who work with children and their families. This group is working to break down systemic barriers so that collaboration across agencies occurs smoothly. CWS and the other member agencies contribute funds to this collaborative in order to ensure its continuation and to help families with needed services.

Report to the Twenty-Ninth Hawai'i State Legislature 2018

In Accordance with the Provisions of  
Section 346-381(9), Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Department of Human Services  
December 2017

**REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 346-381(9), HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES  
RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Section 346-381(9), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to submit a report to the legislature on the progress of its activities, including formation and progress of the ten-year plan to address homelessness, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session.

This reports highlights the following key points:

- Overview of the HICH, including its mission and responsibilities, historical background, and staffing and organizational structure;
- Ten-year plan and strategic framework to address homelessness; and
- 2017 HICH Activities.

A record of HICH meetings convened in 2017, including meeting agendas and minutes, can be found online at the [Department of Human Services \(DHS\) website](#).

## **I. Overview of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)**

### **A. Mission and Purpose**

The mission of the HICH is to prevent and end homelessness in Hawai'i. The HICH achieves this mission through the coordination of governmental and private entities statewide, including federal, state, and local government; private foundations; the business community; the faith-based community; homeless service providers; and persons experiencing homelessness. The specific duties and responsibilities of the HICH are outlined in section 346-381, HRS.

### **B. Membership and Quorum**

The HICH consists of 27 members, including a mixture of state government representatives, legislators, federal and county government representatives, homeless service providers, and representatives from the private faith-based and business sectors. A majority of members on the HICH – 14 out of 27 members – shall constitute a quorum to do business and validate any decision or act of the council.

### **C. Historical Background**

The HICH has existed in various forms for over a decade, however its specific duties and organizational structure have evolved over time as the HICH transitioned from an informal voluntarily established entity to a formal advisory entity established in statute. In 2004, the HICH was first established as an informal, voluntary council. In 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie signed Executive Order No. 11-21 that formally established the HICH and designated the Governor as chair, and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness as vice chair. Act 105, Session Law of Hawai'i (SLH) 2012, codified HICH into statute. With Act 76, SLH 2013, the Legislature added the director of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) as a council member, and provided for the designation of two members from the House of Representatives and two members from the Senate, where one member from each body would serve as an alternate member to the council.

### **D. Organizational Structure and Staffing**

The HICH is established within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for administrative purposes, and is chaired by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (Coordinator). Staff support for the HICH is provided by the Coordinator's staff. While physically located within the Office of the Governor, the Coordinator and staff are employees of DHS.

## **II. Ten-Year Plan and Strategic Framework to Address Homelessness**

### **A. Statutory Mandate**

Section 346-381(a), HRS, tasks the HICH to “formulate, and advise the governor on the implementation of, a unified ten-year statewide plan to address homelessness in all Hawai’i Counties.” Additionally, the HICH is required to “report annually to the governor, the legislature, and the mayor of each county on the progress of its activities, including formulation and progress of the ten-year plan.”

## B. Ten-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

On September 10, 2012, the HICH formally adopted the Ten-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness (“Ten-Year Plan”). The plan was developed following a twelve-month strategic planning process, which included input from service providers and key stakeholders in all four counties.

The Ten-Year Plan identifies four specific goals, and outlines specific objectives and strategies to achieve each goal. The plan's four goals are:

### Goal 1: Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

This includes refocusing homeless services into a crisis response system that prevents homelessness and rapidly returns people experiencing homelessness to stable housing. A retooled homeless crisis response system also prioritizes critical services for funding, and ensures that information systems are integrated to improve effectiveness and efficiency of service provision.



*In May 2017 HICH Chair Scott Morishige represented the council at a national conference convened by the Corporation for Supportive Housing. The Chair served on a panel of communities that utilized a collective impact approach to address complex social challenges. Photo Credit: K. Miller.*

### Goal 2: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

This goal includes the production and preservation of affordable housing, as well as the specific creation and preservation of permanent supportive housing options. This goal aims to eliminate barriers to government-funded affordable housing, including public housing, and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

### Goal 3: Increase Economic Stability and Self-sufficiency

This goal includes increasing meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing homelessness, as well as improving access to appropriate mainstream programs and services that reduce financial vulnerability.

#### **Goal 4: Improve Health and Stability**

This goal includes integrating primary and behavioral health care services with homeless and housing assistance programs. In addition, this includes a focus on health and stability for youth aging out of foster care and juvenile systems, as well as for people experiencing homelessness who have frequent contact with hospitals and the criminal justice system.

The Ten-Year Plan can be found on the [DHS website](#).

### **C. Hawai'i State Framework to Address Homelessness**

In August 2016, building upon the strong foundation of the Ten-Year Plan and other previous plans, the HICH adopted a formal Hawai'i State Framework to Address Homelessness ("State Framework") to move Hawai'i forward in a way that is *pono* (Hawaiian for good, upright, righteous, correct, or proper). The State Framework was developed based on input received from federal, state, and local governments, service providers and other private sector representatives. The framework establishes that by 2020 the homeless response system will complete the transition to a Housing First system that connects people experiencing homelessness with the opportunity to move quickly into permanent housing.

Based upon 'Ohana Nui, a multigenerational approach that invests early and concurrently in children and families, the State Framework strategically presses on three levers to address homelessness:

- **Affordable Housing** – Hawai'i must build more affordable housing and maximize the use of existing inventory;
- **Health and Human Services** – Hawai'i will implement best practice approaches for services that are evidence-based and move homeless persons quickly into permanent housing, including close monitoring of the results of these services; and
- **Public Safety** –Hawai'i will coordinate public safety efforts alongside homeless outreach, so that homeless persons are not simply asked to vacate a specific area, but are approached with respect and given personalized options to quickly connect to appropriate services and housing.

As outlined in the table below, clear and measurable objectives were established for each lever of change in the framework.

	Affordable Housing	Health & Human Services	Public Safety
<b>Short term (2016)</b>	Maximize the use of rental subsidies by convening landlord summits in every county and recruiting landlord participation.	Issue a new RFP for state homeless contracts, which are coordinated, performance-based, and focused on permanent housing.	Implement statewide policy to address homeless encampments on state lands.
<b>Medium term (2018)</b>	Streamline housing development by aligning rules and processes among state housing agencies.	Maximize efficiency by utilizing Medicaid and other funding streams for permanent supportive housing.	Divert homeless persons from the criminal justice system.
<b>Long term (2020)</b>	Build 10,000 new housing units by 2020.	Reduce the number of unsheltered people to functional zero by 2020.	Reduce to functional zero the number of encampments on state lands by 2020.

An executive summary of the State Framework can be found on the [Office of the Governor](#) website.

**D. Implementation of the Ten-Year Plan and State Framework**

In 2017 the HICH moved forward with implementation of the Ten-Year Plan and State Framework with the following key achievements:

- **Goal 1: Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System**
  - **New RFPs and contracts reflect a Housing-focused approach** – DHS and the Department of Health (DOH) have adjusted contracts for homeless services to include a specific focus on housing and specific performance benchmarks for permanent housing placement and reduced length of stay in shelter. In February 2017, DHS executed new contracts for its full array of homeless services, including shelter, outreach, and housing placement services. In November 2017 DOH released a new Request For Proposal (RFP) for homeless outreach services for the seriously mentally ill (SMI) population based on feedback received through coordination with DHS.
  - **Expansion of Homeless Outreach Services** – DHS and DOH both increased the level of funding for homeless outreach services in 2017. The Legislature appropriated a \$1,500,000 increase in funding for DHS homeless outreach services, and a \$1,300,000 increase in funding for DOH homeless outreach services for the seriously mentally ill and individuals with substance use disorders.
  - **Expanded Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention Resources** – In May 2017 DHS executed new contracts for rapid re-housing services statewide. The new

contracts added \$3 million in additional funding to transition homeless individuals off the streets and to prevent homelessness for households that are at imminent risk of eviction.

- **Continued changes to the paradigm of homeless shelter** – The City and County of Honolulu’s Hale Mauiola housing navigation center at Sand Island, and the State’s Family Assessment Center in Kaka’ako both opened within the past two years and include a focus on rapid placement to permanent housing. In particular, the Family Assessment Center has a 91% housing placement rate, with families moving from intake to housing placement in an average of 81 days.
  - **Alignment of multiple funding efforts** – Staff from the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness, City & County of Honolulu, Partners in Care, Bridging the Gap, the Hawai’i Community Foundation, and Aloha United Way continued to meet as part of a Homeless Funders Hui. The group is working to align federal, state, local and philanthropic funding efforts, and to increase communication and collaboration.
  - **Implemented efforts to address unauthorized encampments on state lands** – The Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness worked together with State departments to implement a coordinated approach to addressing encampments on state lands, which includes offering consistent outreach services and housing support to unsheltered homeless individuals and families. These efforts were supported through an appropriation of \$2,000,000 in general funds for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to specifically address trespass and encampments on DOT properties.
- **Goal 2: Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing**

- **Increased overall housing production** - About 5,300 new housing units have been produced over the past three years, with another 1,400 units under construction and 4,500 in various stages of planning. These efforts have been supported by a combined appropriation of \$150,000,000 over the past two years for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.



*In March 2017, the State and City & County of Honolulu partnered with a number of homeless service providers to house 30 chronically homeless individuals in two City-owned housing projects. The placement of these individuals in permanent housing reflect the State’s coordinated approach to addressing homelessness statewide. Photo Credit: J. Ford.*

- **Expanded housing inventory and resources for Native Hawaiian families –**

The Legislature funded the administration's request to increase funding to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) - \$23.9 million compared to the previous amount of \$9.3 million. DHHL utilized this funding to provide more vacant lots prepared for housing construction and turnkey homes.

- **Partnerships with Counties and the private sector to increase permanent housing options for homeless families –**

The State partnered with the counties and the private sector to increase permanent housing options for homeless individuals and families statewide. The State provided land to the City and private sector stakeholders to open the Kahauiki Village project in January 2018; the project will provide 30 new housing units to serve 120 homeless individuals. The State also partnered with Hawaii County to provide land in Kona for a long-term housing project for homeless individuals and families.

- **Partnerships with local landlords and the faith-based community to maximize inventory –** Landlord summits were convened in every county to expand the number of landlord, property managers, and rental supply of homes. In addition, faith-based summits were convened on Oahu and Hawaii Island to discuss opportunities for partnership with local churches and faith-based leaders.

- **Goal 3: Increase Economic Stability and Self-Sufficiency**

- **Initiation of Job Training programs in partnership with emergency shelter -** The Next Step shelter provides job training opportunities to shelter residents in partnership with HCDA; at Next Step, shelter residents assist in providing janitorial and maintenance services for the Kaka’ako area parks. The new DHS contracts for homeless shelters also include specific performance metrics related to employment services and support for homeless families.

- **Address the needs of children and families early and concurrently –** The ‘Ohana Nui multi-generational approach to services has resulted in increased collaboration between the DHS and DOH. An example of the ‘Ohana Nui approach is Family Assessment Center, which involves a wide network of



*In January 2017, Partners in Care and other HICH members convened a press conference to share legislative priorities for the 2017 session. A top priority for Partners in Care was dedicated funding for the State’s Rental Housing Revolving Fund, which supports affordable rental housing development statewide. Photo Credit: J. Ford.*

community partners – including DHS, DOH, Department of Education (DOE), Catholic Charities Hawaii, Honolulu Community Action Program, Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project, Partners in Development, and others – to address the needs of families at the facility.

- **Goal 4: Improve Health and Stability**

- **Strengthened intersection between healthcare and housing** – DHS recently submitted a request to amend the State’s 1115 Medicaid waiver to enable expanded case management services for chronically homeless individuals with a medical need. In addition, DOH recently launched a new Intensive Case Management (ICM) pilot program in partnership with Queen’s Medical Center and the Honolulu Police Department to assist homeless individuals with serious mental illness that experienced a high rate of emergency room utilization.
- **Continued to pilot new models for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** – The State and City and County of Honolulu partnered to place chronically homeless persons from DOH's Hawai'i Pathways Project into housing at various City-owned properties. In this model, the State is providing supportive services and case management, while the City is providing housing units and housing vouchers. For example, in March 2017, 30 chronically homeless individuals identified by DHS outreach providers moved into city-owned properties at Winston Hale and Pauahi Hale.
- **Continued to address discharge planning and transition of inmates exiting from incarceration** – The Department of Public Safety (PSD) established Memorandums of Agreement with DOH and DOT to streamline the process for offenders to obtain birth certificates and state identification prior to discharge. In addition, a partnership between PSD, Waikiki Health, and DHS has helped to ensure that offenders maxing out of the longest jail/prison sentences are enrolled in Hawaii's medicaid program QUEST Integration for health insurance coverage prior to release.
- **Strengthened homeless coordination services for youth enrolled in public schools** – The Legislature provided additional full-time positions within the DOE for homeless liaisons statewide. The DOE is currently in active recruitment for these positions.

### III. **2017 Activities of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)**

#### A. **Regular Meeting Schedule**

The HICH convened four times in calendar year 2017. Meetings were held on the following dates: March 20, 2017; June 19, 2017; September 18, 2017; and December 18, 2017. Quorum was established for all four meetings. Agendas and Minutes for HICH meetings are available online on the [DHS website](#).

## B. Presentations to the HICH

The HICH provides a unique opportunity to connect with local and national experts addressing homelessness, and to share information and resources with HICH members and the public.

Meetings convened in 2017 included presentations by the following organizations and individuals:

- **Home Base** – At the March 20, 2017 meeting, Home Base, a technical assistance provider contracted by HUD to provide support for the Oahu Continuum of Care, presented information about the implementation of the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Mr. Matt Olsson and Ms. Mary McGrail provided a short presentation regarding the status of CES, and its connection to three focal points of the State Framework to Address Homelessness.
- **Homeless Communications Hui** – At the March meeting, Mr. Jason Parasco from the City & County of Honolulu, Ms. Rona Fukumoto from Catholic Charities Hawaii, and Ms. Heather Pierucki from Helping Hands Hawaii presented to the HICH the formation of a communications hui to provide support to homeless service providers. The hui worked to establish a weekly radio show on KHVH AM radio, The Road to Home, and also worked with traditional and social media to increase public awareness of issues relating to homelessness. The hui also partnered with the Oahu Continuum of Care to organize a free media training for homeless service providers.
- **United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)** – At the June 19, 2017 meeting, Regional Coordinator Ms. Katy Miller presented on national activities and the framework related to homelessness.
- **State of Hawaii, Office of Planning, and Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing** – At the June meeting, Office of Planning Director Leo Asuncion shared information in regard to the State’s goals for affordable housing production. In addition, Director Asuncion spoke with council members about the close intersection between the efforts of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing and the efforts of the HICH.



*Members of the HICH formed a Homeless Communications Hui, which resulted in the establishment of a weekly radio show to highlight topics related to homelessness. The radio show addresses a range of issues, including veteran homelessness, Housing First, and individuals living in encampments. Photo Credit: J. Ford.*

- **Department of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division** – At the June meeting, Deputy Attorney General Lance Goto presented a summary of state laws addressing criminal trespass on public lands.
- **United Healthcare: myConnections and the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Program** – At the September 18, 2017 meeting, Ms. Katherine Keir from United Healthcare shared information about a new AHC grant that United Healthcare received from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). In particular, Ms. Keir spoke about the possibility of coordinating healthcare and homeless services, and evaluating the impact of services on reducing healthcare costs and utilization.
- **Queen’s Medical Center, Queen’s Care Coalition** – At the September meeting, Dr. Daniel Cheng presented information on Queen's efforts to partner with healthcare plans and social service providers to reduce emergency room usage for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Honolulu Police Department, HELP Honolulu Project** – At the September meeting, Lt. Michael Lambert presented information on a new initiative within HPD to partner law enforcement efforts with social service efforts.
- **Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Department of Health (DOH), and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)** – At the December 19, 2017 meeting, Mr. Jun Yang from DOT, Ms. Pua Aiu from DLNR, Ms. Yara Sutton from DOH, and Mr. Garrett Kamemoto from HCDA presented efforts to link enforcement of trespass on state lands with homeless outreach and housing services.

### C. Actions of the HICH

As an advisory council, the HICH has the authority to make recommendations regarding policy and programming to address homelessness. As provided by section 92-2.5, HRS, the HICH may establish a permitted interaction group (PIG) consisting of two or more members to investigate specific matters relating to the official business of the council. In 2017, the HICH voted and took action on the following items:

- **Established a PIG to support the implementation of a Coordinated Entry System (CES) to comply with HUD requirements** – At the March meeting, the council established a PIG to address the CES. The PIG consists of the Chair, a representative Partners in Care, a representative from Bridging the Gap, a representative from DLIR, a representative from the State of Hawaii Department of Defense, a representative from DOE, a representative from PSD, a representative from the HPHA, a representative from DOH, and a representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Established a PIG to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness** – At the June meeting, the council established a PIG to review the ten-year strategic plan and state framework. The PIG consists of the Chair, a representative

from the Continuum of Care for Hawaii Island, a representative for Partners in Care, a representative for the Continuum of Care for Kauai, a representative from the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and a representative from the faith-based community.

- **Appointed HICH members to a working group and established a PIG to address the issue of squatting**– The HICH voted to appoint members of the HICH to a working group requested by House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 148 (SLH 2017) to address the issues around squatting. In addition, at the June meeting, the council established a PIG to mirror the membership and purpose of the HCR 148 working group. The PIG consists of the Chair, the Chair of the Senate standing committee on housing, the Chair of the House standing committee on housing, a representative from DHS, a representative from HPHA, a representative from PHOCUSED, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and a representative from the Hawaii Association of Realtors, a representative from Partners in Care, a representative from Bridging the Gap, and a representative from the Department of the Attorney General. See the Report to the Twenty-Ninth Hawaii State Legislature 2018, In Accordance with Section 1, Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 on the Establishment of Safe Zones for Persons Experiencing Homelessness and House Concurrent Resolution 148 SD1 (2017) on the Issue of Squatting, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Act-212-2017-Report-on-Safe-Zones-HCR-148-SD-1-on-Squatting.pdf>.
- **Appointed HICH members to a working group and established a PIG to examine and develop recommendations to address the issue of safe zones for homelessness** – The HICH voted to appoint members of the HICH to a working group required by Act 212 (SLH 2017) to address issues of safe zones. In addition, at the June meeting, the council established a PIG whose membership and purpose mirrors the membership and purpose of the Act 212 working group. The PIG consists of the Chair, a representative from DHS, a representative from PSD, a representative from HUD, and a representative of the faith-based community.
- **Approved recommendations of the Act 212 (SLH 2017) Safe Zones Working Group, including funding of \$25,000 to support operations and evaluation of Camp Kikaha in Hawaii County** – The HICH voted to approve the recommendations of the Act 212 (SLH 2017) Safe Zones Working Group. See the Report to the Twenty-Ninth Hawaii State Legislature 2018, In Accordance with Section 1, Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 on the Establishment of Safe Zones for Persons Experiencing Homelessness and House Concurrent Resolution 148 SD1 (2017) on the Issue of Squatting, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Act-212-2017-Report-on-Safe-Zones-HCR-148-SD-1-on-Squatting.pdf>.

#### IV. Conclusion

The HICH continues to make progress in implementing the four goals of the Ten-Year Plan, as well as the three levers of the State Framework. A key indication of this progress is that the estimated number of homeless individuals statewide has **decreased**. According to the 2017

statewide Point in Time (PIT) count, the number of homeless individuals statewide ***decreased by nearly 9% between 2016 and 2017 – the first statewide decrease in eight years.***

The HICH will continue its work to maintain forward momentum, and work to establish and scale partnerships between the public and private sectors. Over the past year, public and private partnerships have resulted in the formation of landlord summits statewide, the establishment of a weekly radio show to highlight the issue of homelessness, and housing projects like the Kahauiki Village that will provide permanent housing to homeless families. The HICH is committed to working with its diverse membership to discuss policy issues, and build solid partnerships that continue to move the needle in addressing a complex statewide challenge to end homelessness.

Homelessness in Hawai'i remains a foremost challenge that requires a complete system approach, a significant commitment of time, resources, and a high level of resiliency by all involved. For more information on state efforts to address homelessness, please contact the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness at (808) 586-0193 or [gov.homelessness@Hawaii.gov](mailto:gov.homelessness@Hawaii.gov).

## KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

**Affordable housing**—In general, housing is considered “affordable” when the cost is less than 30 percent of a household’s income. When housing costs exceed this amount, a household is considered to be housing-cost burdened. With an estimated 57.5% of renters paying more than one-third of their income to rent, Hawai’i has the second highest number of cost-burdened renters in the nation.<sup>1</sup> The households who face the most severe lack of affordable housing are the extremely low income, who earn less than 30% Area Median Income (AMI), or less than \$28,750 per year for a household of four in Honolulu.

**Chronically Homeless**—A person who is chronically homeless is a homeless person with a disability who has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months, or has been homeless on at least four separate occasions over the past three years. The combined length of time in those four or more occasions must be twelve months or more, as specified in the Final Rule on the definition of “chronically homeless” issued by HUD in December 2015.<sup>2</sup> A chronically homeless family is a family with an adult head of household who meets the definition for a chronically homeless person.

**Continuum of Care (CoC)**—A CoC is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding from HUD for homeless families and persons. In Hawai’i there are two CoCs – Partners in Care for the island of O’ahu, and Bridging the Gap for the balance of the state. Each CoC includes membership from government agencies, homeless service providers, funders, and other interested members of the community. Each CoC is responsible for submitting an annual application for federal homeless assistance funds. The federal funding for homeless services are sometimes also referred to as “CoC funds.” In addition to applying for funding, the CoC is also tasked with administering the annual Point in Time Count of the homeless population and the annual Housing Inventory Count. These counts provide an overview of the state of homelessness in a CoC.

**Coordinated entry system**—Coordinated entry is a process to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs. A coordinated entry system helps communities to prioritize housing and homeless assistance based on a homeless person’s vulnerability and the severity of their needs, so that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner. Federal law requires that CoCs establish a coordinated entry system.

**Emergency shelter**—An emergency shelter generally is a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations that provides short-term, temporary shelter for homeless persons and does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement. Emergency shelters differ from

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<sup>1</sup> Corporation for Enterprise Development. *Assets & Opportunity Score Card, Housing Cost Burden – Renters*. Available at: <http://scorecard.assetsandopportunity.org/latest/measure/housing-cost-burden-renters>. Accessed April 25, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining “Chronically homeless.” 80 Fed. Reg. 75791. (December 4, 2015).

transitional housings (also known as transitional housing) that typically allows a maximum stay of up to 24 months.

**Functional zero**—This is a point where a community has both sufficient and appropriate housing resources to assist homeless persons encountered in their community. Functional zero does not mean that there is zero homelessness, but instead means that a community has the full capacity and resources needed to connect people to shelter or permanent housing.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**—The HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data, and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless persons and families, as well as persons at immediate risk of homelessness. The HMIS system is owned and administered by the Continuum of Care—Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap.

**Homeless Service Utilization Report**—The utilization report is an annual report produced by the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family and the HPO. The report provides an analysis of homeless service programs that input data into the HMIS. The utilization report typically focuses on data captured within a state fiscal year.

**Homeless outreach**—The work of homeless outreach includes meeting homeless persons on streets or sidewalks, or in remote rural areas that includes beaches and valleys. Outreach providers assist with the completion of program applications, the determination of program eligibility, housing search and placement, and work with the person to obtain identification and other vital documents (e.g., birth certificate or social security card).

**Housing First**—Housing First is a philosophy that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed. In a Housing First approach, there is an immediate and primary focus on accessing and sustaining permanent housing for all homeless populations. In addition to the Housing First philosophy, the term is used to refer to specific permanent supportive housing programs operated by the state and the city and county of Honolulu. The state and city Housing First programs adopt the philosophy, but also specifically target chronically homeless households for services.

**Housing Inventory Count (HIC)**—The HIC is a Point-In-Time inventory of programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless. The HIC includes beds for emergency shelter and transitional housing, as well as permanent housing beds.

**Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**—The provision of federal funds usually includes provisions that require a state to expend state revenue at a specified level that meet the purpose of the federal funds. Each federal program (TANF, Medicaid, Child care, etc.) has its own maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements. Thus, the expenditure of state funds is the measurement used to assess a state's success in meeting the MOE requirements. The failure to meet the MOE requirements

may result in a reduction of federal funds. For example, failure to meet the specified MOE for TANF may result in a reduction of the TANF Block Grant.

**Permanent supportive housing (PSH)**—PSH is a service delivery model that combines low-barrier affordable housing, health care, and supportive services to enable homeless persons to attain and maintain permanent housing. PSH programs typically target chronically homeless persons, or homeless persons who experience multiple barriers to housing and are unable to maintain housing stability without supportive services. PSH programs have been shown to not only impact housing status, but also result in cost savings to various public service systems, including health care. The state and city Housing First programs that target chronically homeless persons are both examples of a PSH program.

**Point-In-Time (PIT) Count**—A PIT Count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness, and includes both the sheltered and unsheltered populations. HUD requires that communities receiving federal funds for homeless services conduct a PIT Count at least every other year. During these counts, communities are required to identify whether a person is an individual, a member of a family unit, or an unaccompanied youth under the age of 18. In addition, communities must identify if a person is chronically homeless.

**Rapid Rehousing**—Rapid Rehousing places a priority on moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible. The duration of financial assistance provided in a rapid Rehousing program can include either short-term (up to 3-months) or medium-term (6-months to 24-months) support. In general, the core components of rapid Rehousing are housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and case management.

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program**—“Section 8” refers to Section 8 of the Housing Act, which authorizes the payment of rental housing assistance to private landlords for low-income households. A common form of Section 8 assistance is the HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides direct rental payment to the landlord. Typically, a Section 8 voucher recipient will pay one-third of their income towards rent, with the remaining balance of rent provided by the Section 8 voucher payment. A Section 8 voucher typically provides a full rental subsidy, as opposed to a shallow rental subsidy.

**Shallow rental subsidy**—Shallow rental subsidy or shallow subsidy refers to financial assistance for housing costs that cover only a fixed portion of the rent for a period of time, as opposed to the full cost of the entire rent on an ongoing basis. The Rapid Rehousing program and the special rent supplement program are two different examples of a shallow rental subsidy.

**Transitional housing**—Transitional housing, also referred to as transitional housing, is designed to provide homeless persons and families with temporary stability and support, so that they are

able to eventually move to and maintain permanent housing. Transitional housing is generally for a period of up to 24 months of housing with accompanying supportive services.

**Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**—The VI-SPDAT is a common tool used to assess the level of need for homeless persons seeking housing assistance. There are different versions of the VI-SPDAT for use with individuals, families with minor children, and for youth. The tool triages homeless persons into three levels of need—permanent supportive housing, Rapid Rehousing, and diversion. The continua of care in Hawai‘i—both on O‘ahu and the neighbor islands—have adopted the VI-SPDAT as a common assessment tool for the state’s homeless service system.