



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1554 HD2 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OPERATING BUDGET**

Hearing: Monday, March 11, 2019, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure, offers comments, and suggests an amendment. The Coordinator supports funding for core homeless service programs, such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, homeless outreach and civil legal services, the Family Assessment Center, and stored property and debris removal services for State lands.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests an amendment to restore \$5,000,000 in Program HMS 224 for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services, which was removed by the House Committee on Human Services.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for operating expenses of the department of human services.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator works closely with multiple state agencies to implement this framework by working with State agencies and law enforcement to connect trespass and other enforcement efforts together with the offer of services and housing-focused programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address

homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii decreased by 690 individuals (9.6%). The decrease was one of the largest numeric decreases in homelessness in the country, only exceeded by decreases in California, Florida and Michigan. This recent decrease is the second consecutive decrease in homelessness in Hawaii – representing an overall 18% reduction since 2016.

A key factor supporting the continued progress in addressing homelessness is an emphasis on services focused on housing and public safety, such as those described in Program ID HMS 224 in Section 2 of this measure. In particular, Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, homeless outreach and civil legal services, and Family Assessment Center services create a clear pathway to permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Performance metric data collected by DHS indicates that these core homeless services have contributed to increased placements into permanent housing for homeless individuals over the past two years.

Per the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) strategic plan and framework, and as instructed by the Legislature, DHS executed new contracts for all homeless service programs in February 2017, with a focus on tying funding to performance metrics that reflect a system where homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring occurrence. One specific metric that is captured for homeless services are the number of exits to permanent housing, and total length of stay in homeless programs. The percentage of homeless individuals exiting a homeless service program to permanent housing has increased since the new DHS contracts began nearly two years ago. In the second quarter of calendar year 2017, the percentage of individuals exiting to permanent housing was 31%. In the most recent quarter (July 2018 to September 2018), over half (51%) of all individuals exiting homeless services were exiting to permanent housing.

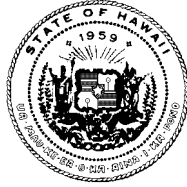
In addition to increased rates of permanent housing placement, the DHS Housing First program has demonstrated a high retention rate of 92.5%, which reflects the percentage of the participating chronically homeless individuals and families who sustained placement in permanent housing with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully requests support of these core homeless services that have demonstrated their effectiveness in placing homeless individuals into housing and helping individuals to maintain housing over time.

The Coordinator also supports funding included in Program ID HMS 903 to support homeless shelter after-care services for homeless families with minor children. In particular, the Coordinator supports the appropriation of A funds in the amount of \$570,000 and a ceiling increase for N funds in the amount of \$1,330,000 for homeless shelter after-care services. The shelter after-care services will provide additional resources, referrals, and support for families after placement in permanent housing to ensure that families do not return to homelessness. The requested funding for shelter after-care services is consistent with the HICH strategic plan and framework to address homelessness and will leverage federal funds for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

Finally, the Coordinator respectfully requests restoration of \$5,000,000 in HMS 224 for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State lands. DHS currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that enables DOT to oversee property storage and debris removal activities statewide for all state lands. In 2018, property storage and debris removal efforts addressed unauthorized encampments and other related violations (e.g. unpermitted structures, sidewalk obstruction, etc.) in all four counties, including areas under the jurisdiction of DOT, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Community Development Authority, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and other State agencies. During the same period, 423 homeless individuals encountered during these enforcement and cleanup efforts were placed in shelter, housing, or other long-term placements (e.g. residential treatment, medical respite, etc.). Without the restoration of funds for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services, the State will be unable to continue the existing program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

March 10, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1554 HD2 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OPERATING BUDGET**

Hearing: Monday, March 11, 2019, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and expresses appreciation to the subject matter and finance committees for their effort and cooperation through this budget process. DHS provides clarification and requests amendments specifically that **the highlighted items be restored**, and that two additional requests be considered.

DHS requests two amendments:

- an appropriation of \$811,000 C for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the capital improvement project Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and
- the conversion of position # 120968, Public information Officer from Temporary to Civil Service Position, in HMS 904 General Administration.

These additions were submitted to the Legislature through a Governor's Message #6. See page 5 for justification.

**PURPOSE:** This measure relates to the Department of Human Services operating budget. The House Committee on Finance defected the effective date. (HB1554 HD2)

1. HMS224 – HOMELESS SERVICES

The appropriation for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands was deleted. The amount should be restored to read:

1. HMS224 – HOMELESS SERVICES

HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
RAPID REHOUSING	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
FAMILY ASSESSMENT CENTER	HMS	1,550,000A	1,550,000A
HOMELESS OUTREACH AND CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES	HMS	1,750,000A	1,750,000A
STORED PROPERTY AND DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES FOR STATE LANDS	HMS	5,000,000A	5,000,000A
	TOTAL	15,800,000A	15,800,000A

The state's framework addressing homelessness is also focused on public safety, especially related to unauthorized encampments located on state lands. Funding is needed to remove and store personal property left behind on state lands after a homeless encampment is vacated or when individuals trespassing on state land leave personal property behind. In addition, state agencies require resources to prevent unauthorized encampments from becoming established, such as placing appropriate signage and installing fencing on state lands where appropriate. The Department of Human Services (DHS) currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that enables DOT to oversee property storage and debris removal activities statewide for all state lands.

2. HMS222 – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

This may be included in a bill addressing HPHA's operational budget.

2. HMS222 – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM	HMS	1,097,808A	952,743A
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This program ID is for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), an attached agency for administrative purposes to the Department of Human Services. Part of those administrative purposes is HPHA's budget is submitted as part of the DHS budget, however, the agencies are otherwise administratively and operationally distinct entities. We understand that the HPHA operating budget is being addressed through the Committee on Housing.

8. HMS401 – HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

This add-on is included in **HB2 HD1**.

8. HMS401 – HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

OPERATING	HMS	-16,511,000A	38,369,000A
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This item is for Medicaid capitation, the sums that are paid for insurance premiums for Medicaid clients. In general, the amount for capitation are based on estimates; for next fiscal year FY19-20, the estimate for the A fund match is lower than was previously estimated, and thus the amount is being returned to the general fund. However, for FY20-21, the estimate for the A fund match for capitation is increased.

9. HMS501 – IN-COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS

This program ID is for the Office of Youth Services and the request should be restored as these requests will expand successful juvenile justice reform efforts, and enable the Office to more effectively use its resources. The Office of Youth Services is an attached agency for administrative purposes; however, it has a different governance structure than HPHA and is reportable to the Director of DHS.

9. HMS501 – IN-COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS

		1.50*	1.50*
		-0.50#	-0.50#
OPERATING	HMS	1,131,416A	1,131,416A
		0.50*	0.50*
		-2.50#	-2.50#
	HMS	-115,803N	-115,803N

- **Youth Assessment Service Centers (501YA-01)**

**Request: \$450,000 A for FY20 and for FY21**

The program's initial request submitted to the Governor was for 3 youth assessment centers; however, only one assessment center was approved and included in the Executive Budget request. The priority for the proposed request is District 8 (Waianae to Ewa) or District 4 (Laie to Waimanalo) on Oahu. The first year of the existing center serving urban Oahu, youth who participated in the YASC had a 7.7 percent lower re-arrest rate compared to youth who did not participate in this YACS. Even lower re-arrest rates were shown for youth who had a warm handoff from police to YACS (difference of 19.4%) specifically for youth with misdemeanors, and youth who received YASC services compared to youth who did not; there was a difference of 12.2% lower re-arrest rate.

- **Juvenile Justice Reform Program (501YA-02)**

**Request: \$600,000 A for FY20 and FY21**

This request will allow for the continuation of efforts to sustain and improve the juvenile justice reform outcomes made over the past 2 years. Funding will be targeted to continue the implementation and validation of a standardized risk and needs assessment and case management tool; evidence-based services, including aggression replacement training; truancy prevention and intervention; wrap around services; training for balance and restorative justice activities; professional staff development; and cultural-based healing services.

- **Establish and Fund 1.00 Permanent Position for Youth Commission (501YA-06)**

**Request: FTE 1.00 A and \$81,416 A for FY20 and for FY21**

This request is to make the authorized amount a recurring budget item so that one staff position will be a permanent civil service worker to carry out the duties of the Youth Commission created by Act 106 (2018). Currently, the position is temporary because funding will end on June 30, 2019.

- **Deletion of 2.00 Temporary Federal-Funded Positions (501YA-04) Request: FTE -2.00 N positions and -\$121,978 N for FY20 and for FY21**

The Office of the Youth Services cannot establish these positions with federal funds due to a lack of administrative and planning funds in the federal grant, and we request to abolish these positions. The average federal award each year is roughly \$400,000 and the percent of administrative and planning funds are 10% or \$40,000. The salaries for a program specialist IV and an account clerk III are \$76,236 plus fringe benefits of \$45,742 totaling \$121,978.

- **Conversion from Temporary to Permanent Civil Service Position Request: FTE -0.50 A (T) to FTE 0.50 A (P), FTE 0.50 N (T) to FTE 0.50 N (P)**

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) requests that the position become a permanent civil service. The Office Assistant III position (122366) is currently budgeted as a temporary position. This position was vacant until very recently. Temporary positions in our office have experienced low interest as evidenced by our vacancy report, and are difficult to fill because of the temporary appointment. We currently have another program position that is vacant since July 3, 2017, because it is a temporary appointment. It is very difficult to hire a person knowing that they may lose their job at any time.

10. HMS503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (HYCF)

The Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is established within the Office of Youth Services, this amount should be restored to continue the process for the HYCF to become a therapeutic model.

10. HMS503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (HYCF)

		-3.00*	-3.00*
OPERATING	HMS	-41,142A <sup>1</sup>	81,228A

**Funding of Existing 5.00 Permanent Social Worker Positions in a trade-off by eliminating 3.00 Permanent Youth Corrections Officer and transferring Personal Services Funds (503YB-01) Request: FTE -3.00 A and -\$41,142 A for FY20 and FTE -3.00 A and \$81,228 A for FY21**

Act 049, SLH 2017, established in HMS 503, 5.00 permanent Social Worker III positions (Position Numbers 98635K, 98636K, 98637K, 98638K, and 98639K) without funding. Without funding the Office of Youth Services (OYS) was not able to establish these positions. This funding request will partially fund those positions and support continuing juvenile justice efforts to transform to a therapeutic model.

12. HMS 802 – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION - FRINGE BENEFITS

<sup>1</sup> Please note there was a typographical error in previous correspondence; the amount has changed from -41,412A to -41,142A.

We request this item to be restored. This request is to appropriate an increase in federal fund ceiling for fringe benefits at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Though the Governor has the authority to raise the federal ceiling, it is preferred that the amounts appear in the budget. Without the increase in federal ceiling, DHS will not be able to draw down the total amount of federal funds.

**12. HMS802 – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

OPERATING	HMS	292,506N	308,236N
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**13. HMS888 – COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN**

Though we prefer everything to be in the same budget measure, we agree with this reduction; it is being addressed in **HB 1355**.

**13. HMS888 – COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN**

OPERATING	HMS	0	0
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**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS**

Regarding the request for capital improvement project funds, **HB 1259 does not** currently address HMS CIP requests. Included in the Executive Budget were CIP requests for the **HMS 503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HMS 503:**

Campus Improvements Planning, Oahu (FY19.1)	\$800,000 C
Sewer Improvements, Oahu (FY20.1)	\$600,000 C
Water System Improvements, Oahu (FY20.5)	\$900,000 C
Gym Foundations Repair, Oahu (FY20.6)	\$225,000 C

Total funding: \$2,525,000 C

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE #6**

Governor's Message #6 transmitted two additional DHS budget requests.

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

HMS 802 – Vocational Rehabilitation

802GA Capital Improvement Project

<u>Project Title</u>	MOF	<u>FY 2020-2021</u>
Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation	C	811,000

Please note, the request is for fiscal year FY2020-2021 and not FY2019-2020 as noted in GM6.



**Impact of Adjustment:**

The department requests an appropriation of \$811,000 (C) for fiscal year 2020-2021 to address additional necessary flood zone remediation at the Ho'opono Services for the Blind facility of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (HMS 802). This addition will be included in a Governor's Message to include these funds in the executive budget bill.

As background for the Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation, Act 49, SLH 2017, appropriated \$521,000 to DVR for design and construction to replace basement walls with a structure to withstand forces due to potential flooding, elevate wall openings, and protect the equipment around the Ho'opono Services for the Blind building.

The capital improvement project is known as the Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation. However, the department of accounting and general services has advised the department of human services that additional capital improvement funding in the sum of \$810,310 (C) (rounded up to \$811,000 (C)) is required to respond to new flood zone mitigation requirements established by the City and County of Honolulu after the initial 2017 planned improvements were completed.

**DHS Administration**

HMS 904 – General Administration

904AA Conversion of Position # 120968, Public information Officer from Temporary to Civil Service Position

Pos. No.	Position Title	MOF	FTE	
			Perm	Temp
120968	Public Information Officer	A	1.00	(1.00)

**Impact of Adjustment:**

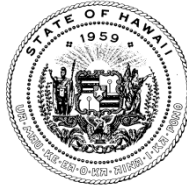
DHS is a complex organization with four division, six staff offices, two attached agencies and two attached commissions, staffed by almost 2,500 employees and with a budget of \$3.8 billion. DHS administers complex programs including the state's Medicaid program, TANF, SNAP, child care licensing and subsidies, homeless services, vocational rehabilitation, child welfare services and adult protective services. Each of these programs has unique needs, regulations, and confidentiality requirements.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) functions as the communications director for the department. It is imperative that the communications lead of the department have a command of the major programs, the regulations, and statutes that govern information sharing for each program, as well as statewide public information laws. Additionally, the communications lead for the department best serves the department when he or she has

a strong understanding of key decision-makers and the history of the department.

Continuity in communications is important for the department to best fulfill its obligations and process to be open, accessible and transparent. The PIO position has historically changed with the department director. If the PIO or communications lead position is made permanent, the department and each DHS Director would be better served, so that policies, decisions, and institutional knowledge can be transmitted across administrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 11, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 1554, H.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

Senate Committee on Human Services

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill and seeks funding for Program ID 224HS-05 - "Appropriate Funds for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands".

Since June 2017, the appropriated funds for fiscal year 2017 and 2018 allowed the DOT to clear structures and store items found within the DOT Right of Ways and other State properties. The largest of the cleanups was performed in October 2017 at the Nimitz Viaduct area. The DOT continues to clear shoulders, rights of ways, and other state properties to ensure safety and proper maintenance of these thoroughfares.

This worthy effort has aided the DOT to respond to the needs of the community, allowing traffic and pedestrian access, while keeping areas clear for safety and for maintenance purposes. We work in direct coordination with service providers and the Governor's Homeless Coordinator to encourage individuals to enter into shelters and gain access to human and social services. Through this program, we have successfully placed over 300 individuals into shelter, most who are experiencing severe and chronic homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Monday, March 11, 2019  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1554, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET**

House Bill 1554, House Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for the operating expenses of the Department of Human Services. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) support this measure and respectfully requests an amendment to Item 1 HMS224.**

The Department notes that in the original version of this measure, a total of \$15,800,000 was appropriated to HMS224. However, House Bill 1554, House Draft 2 is \$5,000,000 less due to the removal of funding for homeless property storage and debris removal services. The Department respectfully asks that these funds be reinstated.

Funds appropriated last year are helping clean Department properties on all major islands. Centralized storage and debris removal is more efficient and effective than having to tap into operating funds for each of our land-owning divisions, and allows the Department to focus its scarce resources on mission critical operations. Additionally, regular enforcement of no trespassing rules is a critical aspect of the administration's three pronged strategy to affect homelessness. Working with outreach during a clean-up is often one of the most effective ways to encourage people to receive services or move into a shelter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services  
Monday, March 11, 2019; 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**RE: COMMENTING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1554, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET.**

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **COMMENTS** on House Bill No. 1554, House Draft 2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate funds for Fiscal Years 2019-2020, and 2020-2021, for the operations of the Department of Human Services (DHS); and
- (2) Take effect on July 1, 2030.

Because it would seem that this measure is intended to facilitate discussion on the Department of Human Services program of work and allow the public the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on their budget, the HPCA wishes to share its concerns on Program ID HMS401 -- the Medicaid Program.

Over the past seven legislative sessions, the HPCA has urged the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, without success. As such, during the 2018 Regular Session, we offered an alternative solution for your consideration. Last year, we believed additional funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 were not necessary because it was our contention that there were sufficient resources within HMS401 to reinstate this essential benefit immediately.

**Our position has not changed and we continue to assert that there are sufficient resources in HMS401 to reinstate the benefit immediately.**

Based on our review of the Ige Administration's disclosures, it would appear that there are sufficient funds to reinstate this benefit immediately. Also, because this is the reinstatement of a pre-existing benefit, and that no additional statutory authorization is needed for DHS to reinstate the benefit, any subsequent change in resources for this benefit could be incorporated into the "base" budget so that future adjustments could be made citing "changes in utilization" as DHS did this year. Furthermore, because of the scale of the appropriations in HMS401, DHS has more options at its disposal to ensure that funds are available for this benefit.

If the Legislature continues to find merit in DHS' plea for additional resources for the reinstatement of this benefit, we offer for your consideration this -- deny DHS's request to reduce the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 in Line Item HMS401 by \$16,511,000 in general funds. This amount is more than what the Administration requested in all means of financing last year for the reinstatement of the benefit. If DHS believes it needs even more funding the following year, they can request it in the Supplemental Budget. However, at that time, DHS will need to reconcile their projected increases with the actual amounts spent and any variance with the previously budgeted amounts.

On page 2, line 42 through page 3, line 3, we propose the following amendment:

"7. HMS401 -- HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

OPERATING HMS [-16,511,000A] 38,369,000A"

Furthermore, to ensure that the \$16 million is used for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, we further suggest that proviso language be added to this bill. It should be noted, however, that because this language would be contained in a stand-alone bill rather than the budget bill, if enacted, one could argue that it would have to be treated as law.

We also propose a new SECTION be added to the bill as follows:

"SECTION . Of the appropriations for health care payments (HMS401), \$16,511,000 in general funds or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020, shall be expended only for the restoration of adult dental benefits which include preventative and restorative oral health services."

In closing, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to share our MANAO with you today.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1554, HD2: Relating to the Department of Human Services Operating Budget

TO: Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair; and  
Members, Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: **Monday, March 11, 2019; 2:45 PM; CR 016**

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members, Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1554, for proven services that successfully end homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports Item 1- HMS 224:** Homeless Services; **Item 2- HMS 222:** Rental Assistance; **Item 3- HMS 236:** Case Management; and **Item 15—HMS 903:** General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service –Aftercare for homeless families with children. ***We request that the appropriations listed in HMS 224 be increased in order to turn the tide of homelessness.*** HMS 224 provides for critical services that create a network of programs that are successfully moving people who are homeless to permanent housing. After many years of increasing homelessness, the 2018 Statewide Point in Time Count found that homelessness had decreased **by nearly 18% since 2016**. The 2019 PIT found a 4% drop. We still have a long ways to go. Additional funding will address the diverse needs of the homelessness in a coordinated network. **We need more intense focus on the unsheltered population and prevention.**

**Housing First:** is a proven program that not only moves the most visible and vulnerable chronic homeless people off the streets, but can save the state millions of dollars. The UH Center on the Family found that an estimated **\$6,197 / MONTH** in health care costs alone, was saved for EACH homeless participant in Housing First – an estimated **\$22 million EACH year in savings**. **Rapid Rehousing:** rapidly enables families to obtain permanent housing through shallow rent subsidies. Hawai'i proven model is an effective path to end homelessness. **Family Assessment Center (FAC):** The Kakaako FAC, operated by Catholic Charities Hawai'i, has been so successful that the shelter system is using it as a model to streamline and enhance this overall system. Families with children are moved off the streets in an average now of 77 days. **Homeless Outreach/Civil Legal Services:** these front line services are essential to connecting people living on the streets to housing navigation/resources to remove barriers to housing.

There is a missing piece: **Aftercare to ensure that once families move into permanent housing, they successfully remain there.** 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. This funding could support 701 households, statewide to become stable in their new housing.

We urge your support for these multiple paths out of homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) with any questions.



Catholic  
Charities  
USA



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
Witness to Jesus



Online Submittal: March 9, 2019

**HEARING:** March 11, 2019

**TO:** Senate Committee on Human Services  
Sen. Russell Ruderman, Chair  
Sen Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference

**POSITION:** **Support for HB 1554 HD 2 Relating to Dept. of Human Services Budget**

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I am Eva Andrade, representing the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii in my capacity as Executive Director for the Hawaii Catholic Conference, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1554, HD2, which would provide proven services that successfully end homelessness.

Homelessness and a lack of affordable housing continues to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social problems. The Diocese of Honolulu supports any strategic plan that makes homelessness and affordable housing one of its primary areas of focus. For many households in Hawaii at risk of becoming homeless, high housing costs mean skimping on food and medical care, moving frequently to find lower rents—which can interrupt a child's education—creating periods of homelessness. As people of faith, we simply cannot sit back and watch while families fall apart.

We support an increase in funding for the ongoing programs in HMS 224:

Item 1--HMS 224: Homeless Services: includes funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Center (Oahu), Family Assessment Center (new center), Homeless outreach and civil legal services. These are programs that we know work. It is critical that that receive ongoing funding if we are going to turn the tide on homelessness.

Item 15 –HMS 903: General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service: Aftercare services for homeless families with children are an important new program that helps to ensure that families who move into permanent housing can successfully maintain a stable home environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

**HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

(The public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii)

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Hearing: **HB 1554, HD2 in support**  
Date: March 11, 2019  
Location: State Capitol, Room 016

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai'i, a nonprofit homelessness service provider, in support of HB 1554, HD2, which would increase funding for ongoing programs in HMS 224. In particular, I support Item 1 and Item 15, which would help more individuals and families overcome homelessness and remain self-sufficient.

**Item 1, HMS 224: Homeless Services**, would increase funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Centers, and homeless outreach and civil legal services. These approaches have had great success, and should be extended. **Item 15, HMS 903: General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service**, would fund a new program to provide aftercare services for homeless families with children. This program would provide funding to follow up with families who've moved into permanent housing, in order to ensure they successfully provide a stable environment for their children.

Please consider the story of our former client, Matthew, whose wife became addicted to drugs and abandoned him and their 4 daughters in 2013. His family soon became homeless, and moved into our family shelter in Hilo. After several months, we were able to help him get into permanent housing, and back on the path to self-sufficiency. Increasing funding for Family Assessment Centers, Homeless Outreach, and Aftercare Services would extend those opportunities for more families like Matthew's, help to shorten the time families experience homelessness and ensure that children like have the supports they need to maintain their home.

Let's continue to work together to end homelessness in Hawai'i. I strongly urge you to continue funding the successful programs in HMS 224 by passing HB 1554 HD2.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,  
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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**HB-1554-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 11:40:29 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Testifying for Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

**To:** The Committee on Human Services, Senator Ruderman, Chair, Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair.

**From:** Mike Goodman, Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force; Member, Partners In Care

**For:** Hearing on Monday, March 11, 2019, 2:45 PM Rm 016

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members, Committee on Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1554, HD2, which would fund services with evidence-based records that truly end homelessness.

The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force and Partners in Care (PIC), who counts amongst its' membership 50 non-profit homelessness providers, strongly supports the sections funding homeless services in this bill.

Partners in Care supports an increase in funding for the ongoing programs in HMS 224:

Regarding Item 1--HMS 224: Homeless Services: ( Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Center (Oahu), Family Assessment Center (new center), Homeless outreach and civil legal services.)

Working together, these programs end homelessness for individuals who are lucky enough to participate. Research by the UH Center on the Family found that Housing First could save the state an estimated \$22 million in health care costs alone for about 300 clients served.

Sixty percent of our shelters are populated by children. The Family Assessment Center in Kakaako helps address this travesty, by moving families off the streets into permanent housing in about 77 days. Aftercare Services will help those families who move into permanent housing, remain there.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-1554-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 3:05:58 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vicki L. Davis	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I would ask that you pass this bill since we have so much homelessness in the Big Island. People are all over the streets of downtown Hilo where I work. There was a lady Friday who approached me. Her home was in Leilani estate and is currently not accessible.. These people need ongoing case management and support programs to survive the trauma they have been through. Please protect our local people who have become homeless and need our kokua.

Mahalo,

Vicki L. Davis