



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 18, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2370 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Friday, March 18, 2022, 11:10 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this bill, respectfully offers comments, requests clarification, and suggests amendments. The Coordinator requests that the measure's passage not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be headed by the Coordinator. The bill also establishes the Homelessness and Housing Solutions special fund and appropriates money into and out of the special fund for the administration of the office.

The Coordinator recognizes a long-term coordinated effort is necessary to reduce and end homelessness statewide. Over the past six and a half years, the Coordinator has chaired the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) and guided a series of policy changes that contributed to steady decreases in homelessness statewide between 2016 and 2020. The

[annual legislative report](#)¹ summarizes the recent work of the Coordinator and HICH, as outlined in section 346-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions be established in Part XVIII, sections 346-381 through 346-283, HRS, instead of establishing the office in a new Part. Part XVIII establishes and specifies duties for the HICH, clarifies that the HICH is administratively attached to DHS, and requires the Coordinator be appointed by the Governor and serve as HICH chair. The Coordinator notes that the proposed office will be responsible for administratively supporting the HICH and working with members to develop and maintain multi-year strategic and tactical plans.

With regard to office staffing, this bill does not include a specific appropriation for personnel costs or establishment of positions. The Coordinator currently supervises four full-time staff. The Coordinator's staff are funded in the executive budget through a combination of general funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the same number of positions be permanently established within the proposed office and the measure be amended to include specific appropriations for staffing and other operating expenses, such as office space, accounting, and human resources support.

With regard to the duties of the office, the Coordinator requests clarification regarding language on page 5, lines 1-5, which specifies the office shall develop and implement homelessness and housing strategies, "including but not limited to tax exemptions for homeless shelters, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, and supportive housing projects" among others. The Coordinator notes that section 346-369 (a), HRS, already provides exemption from general excise tax for "any compensation received by a provider agency for services rendered to homeless individuals or families, or in operation or managing a homeless facility" authorized by Part XVII, chapter 346, HRS.

The duties of the proposed office also include the establishment and maintenance of a statewide homelessness and shelter and housing data clearinghouse. The Coordinator notes

¹ Report available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/HICH-Report-to-2022-Legislature-FINAL.pdf>.

that a related bill, SB2371 SD2, establishes a statewide homelessness information system working group to assess the feasibility of implementing a similar database.

With regard to funding, the Coordinator agrees with the statements in section 1 of this bill that “year-to-year funding among agencies and providers for homeless services threatens already potentially sporadic and fragmented services, instead of providing consistent support that will help permanently house persons experiencing homelessness in the State.” For the past several years, the Legislature has appropriated funds for programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, and civil legal services only on a year to year basis or only for the duration of the fiscal biennium. In addition, as currently drafted, it is unclear whether the proposed special fund would provide consistent and predictable funding for the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Notably, the special fund does not appear to demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining or meet other criteria outlined in section 37-52.3, HRS, for the establishment of special funds.

Additionally, the proposed special fund will be subject to the central services and administrative expenses assessment specified in section 36-27(a), HRS, and section 36-30(a), HRS respectively. If the special fund remains in the bill, the Coordinator requests the Legislature consider amending sections 36-27(a) and 36-30(a), HRS to exempt the proposed fund from the respective assessments to maximize funding available for homeless services.

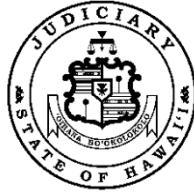
Further, the Coordinator requests clarity regarding the special fund proviso on page 9, lines 7-11, that “each county shall provide support for programs within their respective counties and the governor’s coordinator on homelessness shall seek matching funds from the county in which any proposed capital improvements are built or created.” This provision may unintentionally prohibit appropriations out of the special fund for the administration of the office if county support is not provided.

As currently drafted, it is unclear if the intent is for the proposed special fund to support capital improvement projects, such as construction of new housing or shelter facilities. If this is the intent, the Coordinator suggests the Legislature clarify this in section (c) starting from page 7, line 16 through page 8, line 10 that specifies the purposes that special fund monies shall be used for.

Regarding the use of the special fund to provide “financial assistance to public and private agencies in accordance with chapter 103F” on page 8, lines 3-6, the Coordinator suggests amending the language to read “contracting with public and private agencies in accordance with chapter 103F.”

Finally, the Coordinator respectfully requests to delay of the effective date to allow time for planning and transition of current functions to the proposed office. In previous drafts, the effective date for this bill was July 1, 2022. The current Coordinator’s appointment will end in December 2022. A new Coordinator will require additional time for implementation, including coordination with DHS, identifying office space, and staff appointments. Planning and preparation for establishing the new office are critical to mitigate potential conflicts with state agencies and community partners, such as the Continua of Care (CoCs).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Friday, March 18, 2022, 11:10 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2370, S. D. 2, Relating to Homelessness.

Purpose: Establishes the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions within the Department of Human Services to be headed by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Establishes the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund and appropriates moneys into and out of the special fund, to be expended by the Department of Human Services for the administration of the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2370, S.D. 2, in recognition of the critical need to establish a permanent office on homelessness and housing solutions, as well as providing stable funding for the office to carry out its responsibilities.

A permanent office on homelessness and housing solutions will be able to provide statewide leadership, coordination, and collaboration of all programs that have responsibilities to address homelessness and housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2370, S.D. 2.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on Housing
and the House Committee on Health, Human
Services and Homelessness**

March 18, 2022

S.B. No. 2370 SD2: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chairs Nakamura and Yamane, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and Tam, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. No. 2370 SD2.

The purpose of this measure is to establish the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions and the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund.

An informal working group brought together by the Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki and identified as the Ending Homelessness Group (“EHG”), representing twenty-plus representatives from eleven state, county, and non-profit agencies (including the Office of the Public Defender), has been meeting since June 2021 to discuss problems and difficulties in ending (or at least reducing) homelessness and in finding solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The EHG came up with many different proposals to meet gaps in housing, enforcement, and treatment/system flow. One such solution is to establish the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

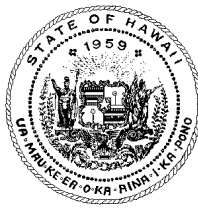
The EHG recognized that a long-term solution was necessary to reduce, prevent, and end homelessness. Currently, homelessness is addressed through year-to-year funding rather than funding in the base budget. This creates uncertainty among agencies and providers with sporadic and fragmented services instead of continuous attention to getting the homeless to permanent housing.

The creation of a central agency such as the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions will be able to coordinate matters relating to homelessness and affordable housing between state and county agencies and private entities with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness through transitional and permanent housing and supportive and/or assisted services. The proposed executive office will also be able to work with other executive branch departments and agencies to develop and maintain multi-year strategic and tactical plans and road maps that are part of the

State's overall plan for homelessness and housing. The office will also be able to develop and implement homelessness and housing strategies, including authority to obtain exemptions for homeless shelters, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities and supportive housing projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. No. 2370 SD2.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6TH Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2370, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Housing
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Friday, March 18, 2022; 11:10 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chairs Nakamura and Yamane, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and Tam, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2370, Senate Draft (SD) 2, which establishes the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions and Homelessness Solutions Special Fund in the Department of Human Services (DHS) and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for this purpose.

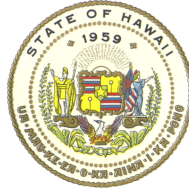
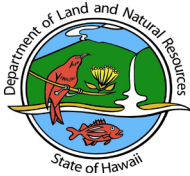
As a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, PSD appreciates the work of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and his team in collaborating with stakeholders and developing innovative homelessness solutions. Provided that this initiative can be adequately funded, this measure will provide the permanence and stability that will allow the Office of Homelessness and

Testimony on SB 2370, SD 2
House Committee on Housing
House Committee on Health,
Human Services, and Homelessness
March 18, 2022
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Housing Solutions to more effectively coordinate and resource homelessness solutions statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this 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 CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
HOUSING
And
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS**

**Friday, March 18, 2022
11:10 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference**

**SENATE BILL 2370, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Bill 2370, Senate Draft 2 proposes to establish an Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions (Office) and the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund and provide stable staff and funding, allowing the State to make long-term investments in strategies to reduce homelessness. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

Senate Bill 2370, Senate Draft 1 will stabilize funding and staffing for the overall coordination of homelessness in Hawaii. The current Governor's Office on Homelessness (Governor's Office) provides strategic guidance, oversight and coordinates homeless strategies for departments with homeless on their properties. The Department uses the services of the Governor's Office regularly. As a land management agency, the Department has no staff with expertise in addressing the many needs of homeless, including applying for documents, mental health issues, regular health issues and many more. The Governor's Office is crucial in making these connections for the homeless on Department lands.

Making the functions of this office permanent and providing funding will provide stability and continuity for the state as it continues to address the problem of homelessness. The Department suggests two amendments:

- 1) Make the staff of the proposed office members of the civil service so there is staff continuity even as the head of the office may change with new administrations.
- 2) Consider housing Ohana Zone funding within this office.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.

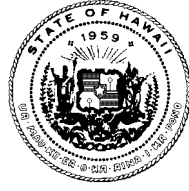
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 17, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2370 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: March 18, 2022, 11:10 am
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comments. The Department requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace a priority identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund and appropriate moneys into and out of the special fund, to be expended by the Department of Human Services for the administration of the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Establishing the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions within the Department of Human Services rather than the Department of Budget and Finance;
- (2) Clarifying that disbursements from the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund to public and private agencies involved in homelessness and housing solutions be in accordance with chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, rather than chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 further amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions is required to identify and address gaps in the homeless service system by, among other things, developing and implementing tax exemptions for certain facilities and projects;
- (2) Clarifying the required contents of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness' annual report to the Legislature;
- (3) Requiring that each state agency that administers public lands provide the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness with an inventory identifying available vacant public lands;
- (4) Clarifying that the moneys appropriated into the homelessness and housing solutions special fund are in addition to, and do not supplant, any portion of the budget used to fund the ohana zones pilot program or housing first program;
- (5) Changing the amount appropriated into and out of the homelessness and housing solutions special fund from \$2,000,000 to an unspecified sum;
- (6) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (7) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department appreciates the notes of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means in STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3031,

"that the Department of Human Services' written comments on this measure clarify a misstatement regarding the Department's testimony included in Standing Committee Report No. 2407. According to the Department, "[t]he Department's testimony did not recommend creating an administratively attached agency within the Department, as the Coordinator and the [Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness] are already administratively attached within the Department per section 346-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes."

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is a unique position that currently has the mandate and authority to lead the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), a cross-sector, inter-government advisory council in shaping and executing the State's strategy to end homelessness. DHS agrees with the proposal that the Coordinator's office staff should eventually be permanent positions exempt from Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). However, the measure does not yet establish positions or appropriate funds for the positions.

Also, the Coordinator's office currently does not have staff with tax expertise to address potential tax exemptions.

Regarding the proposed office, for clarity, DHS recommends that the Legislature adds the new office, responsibilities, and authority of the Coordinator to sections 346-381 thru 346-383, HRS, instead of creating a new part that describes similar and related duties.

The Coordinator and the HICH have implemented innovative programs, supporting the continued development of the coordinated entry system, shifting to a Housing First approach, and successfully implementing the Ohana Zones pilot program projects. During the pandemic, the Coordinator and staff worked with homeless service providers, the Counties, the Judiciary, and other executive departments to address the needs of Hawaii's homeless or houseless residents. Notably, the Coordinator facilitates regular training for the community to keep abreast of the latest COVID-19 strategies. The cross-sector collaboration led by the Coordinator, the HICH, in close partnership with the Continuum of Care providers, was built and strengthened on the existing organizational and statutory structure. The Coordinator also provides a very detailed report to the Legislature as required by 346-381, HRS.

The Department has long maintained that funding for homeless services should become part of the executive's base budget instead of non-recurring year-to-year funding. If the current budget remains intact, State Fiscal Year 2023 will be the first year that homeless services funds, for Family Assessment Centers (1,550,000), Housing First Program (3,750,000), Rapid Re-Housing Program (3,750,000), and Homeless Outreach and Civil Legal Services (1,750,000), will be part of the DHS base budget per Act 8, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2021.

Along with predictable funding for services, the State and Counties need continued investment to increase the low-income rental and permanent supportive housing inventory so residents at risk for homelessness and housing instability can live in real homes and not survive in shelters. Housing inventory for Hawaii's lowest-income residents requires public financing. If the Legislature intends that the Coordinator have more capital improvement responsibilities, the Coordinator will likely need additional professional staff who have background and experience in finance and housing development. The Department also supports Hawaii Public

Housing Authority's funding requests in the executive budget to maintain and redevelop its housing inventory and properties.

The Department appreciates the intent to provide additional funds for innovation for housing solutions; however, DHS agrees with the comments of the Department of Budget & Finance regarding the establishment of special funds per section 37-52.3, HRS. The proposal to establish a special fund for homelessness and housing solutions with general funds will not necessarily be sustainable or different than a direct appropriation, especially as a portion of the special fund will pay the special fund assessments unless the Legislature exempts the special fund. Additionally, special funds have additional reporting requirements. Therefore, a direct appropriation would be a more practical and efficient use of general funds and staff time than to place general funds in a special fund.

The Department appreciates the SD2 clarification that these proposed funds will not supplant Ohana Zone pilot program funds or Housing First program funds. Currently, there is no ohana zone pilot program fund or funds in the budget. The ohana zones pilot program is funded through Act 209, SLH 2018, amended by Act 128, SLH 2019. In addition, two measures propose to extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program (SB3168 and HB2512); without extension or additional funding, the ohana zone pilot program will sunset on June 30, 2023. Neither chamber scheduled hearings for the proposed administration measures to extend the Ohana Zones pilot program.

In addition, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation administers the rental housing revolving fund, not DHS. Also, as provided by section 201H-202, HRS, the rental housing revolving fund is a source of capital for affordable rental housing projects; it is not necessarily a source for low-income or permanent supportive housing projects.

Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce a priority identified in the executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

LATE

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2370, S.D. 2

March 18, 2022
11:10 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill (S.B) No. 2370, S.D. 2, amends Chapter 346, HRS, to: 1) establish the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (OHHS) within the Department of Human Services (DHS); 2) set the duties and responsibilities of OHHS; 3) designate the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH) as the head of OHHS; 4) set additional reporting requirements for the GCH; 5) authorize the GCH to appoint OHHS staff without regard to Chapter 76, HRS; 6) establish the Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund (HHSSF); 7) require each State agency that administers public lands to provide the GCH with an inventory identifying available vacant public lands; and 8) add new definitions for clarity. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to be deposited into the HHSSF and appropriates an unspecified amount out of the HHSSF in FY 23, with requirements that the general funds be non-supplanting and that the GCH seek matching county funds from any county which

benefits from a capital improvement funded by the HHSSF, to DHS to cover administration costs of OHHS in FY 23.

B&F notes that, as a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 2370, S.D. 2, there does not appear to be any significant source of revenues to support the HHSSF aside from appropriations from the general fund.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Rep. Nadine Nakamura,
Chair, House Committee on Housing

Honorable Rep. Ryan Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Connie Mitchell MS, APRN, BC, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services

SUBJECT: S.B. 2370, SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: March 18, 2022, 11:10 am Via Videoconference, State Capitol Conf. Room 329

POSITION: IHS supports the passing of S.B. 2370, SD2 with comment.

IHS, the Institute for Human Services, supports the intent of S.B. 2370, SD2 with comment. This measure will create a permanent office for the interagency council on homelessness, which was temporarily created under an emergency declaration. By creating an office, longer-lasting and more seamless coordination and management for a needed assistance program can be achieved, allowing for more efficient utilization of resources and support programs/services. Placement in the position of the Governor's cabinet would allow the respect needed to facilitate inter-departmental initiatives.

The Homelessness and Housing Solutions Special Fund will fund necessary personnel for administration of statewide initiatives for information sharing, resource management, and evaluation of the State's efforts in addressing and ending homelessness.

Thank you.



SB-2370-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:24:36 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/18/2022 11:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2370 SD2 Because Hawaii needs an office that supports Homeless issues.

Samuel Mitchell (Member Makiki Nb-10)

SB-2370-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:46:19 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/18/2022 11:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, please accept my FULL SUPPORT of SB2370 SD2.

The best way to accomplish anything is with communication and having a statewide office to collect and coordinate all the information from all the islands, departments, etc. will be strategic to finally make progress in our compassionate battle on the homelessness front.

SB-2370-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:50:12 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/18/2022 11:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony in support of SB2370 SD2 that proposes a very practical way for the entire state to help the homeless.

Dear Chair Nakamura, Vice-Chair Hashimoto and members of the House Committee on Housing,

I am writing in support of SB2370 SD2 and the benefits see it providing for the houseless population of Hawai'i. As the bill itself stated "homelessness in Hawai'i is a long-term problem." There is no quick and easy solution and the necessity for additional resources and people involved in facing the issue is paramount. But without a single foundation through which government agencies and other organizations may be coordinated, there may often be a lack of understanding amongst the various branches despite everyone working towards a common goal. Agencies end up working against each other as they see other groups as threatening their own responsibilities and benefits. Having a constant State-level entity which would work with agencies could allow for a sort of third-party assurance of mutual cooperation between all groups.

Additionally, much of the State's role in reducing, preventing, and ending homelessness is quite transitional. While shorter term 10-year goals have been established, without a clear, dedicated declaration by the State towards the support and assistance of Hawai'i's houseless population, how can the public believe in the missions and projects that seek to treat this dilemma? A centralized body through which innovations and interventions may be supported would go far in showing a united front towards the resolution of homelessness. A year-to-year funding model for the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions is not reasonable to ensure continuity of care. This lack of commitment from the State undoubtedly makes staff within the Office unsure about their own ability to truly enact change. This lack of confidence likely reverberates amongst the greater community as well, which detracts from the certainty of many decisions that the Office may make.

The annual reports the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions compiles would also be of great assistance towards approaching a better understanding of how effective certain strategies are. They would better support the funding viable operations while helping to target which unnecessary diversions to reduce support for.

Thank you for allowing me the time to provide this testimony.