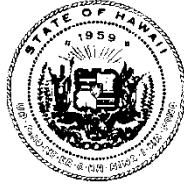


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Friday, March 18, 2022

11:00 AM – Videoconference – Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 3168, SD2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Yamane, Honorable Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 3168, SD2, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent, and offers the following comments**, for SB 3168, SD2, which extends the sunset date of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program from 6/30/2023 to 6/30/2028. Establishes an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot program. Appropriates funds.

As you may know, Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, transferred the Homeless Programs Office (HPO) from the HPHA to the Benefit Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS). This was strategically done to ensure that our homeless population would be provided with the delivery of services that the HPO could coordinate and administer. Please know that the HPHA will defer to the Department of Human Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in regards to this measure.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3168, S.D. 2

March 18, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Bill No. 3168, S.D. 2, amends Act 209, SLH 2018, as amended by Act 128, SLH 2019, to: 1) extend the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program's (OZPP) sunset date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028; 2) allow individuals receiving accommodations or services from an 'Ohana Zone to request a 90-day extension of such accommodations or services; and 3) extend the annual reporting requirements of the pilot program to the 2028 Legislative Session. The bill also establishes a permanent 'Ohana Zones Program within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority's rental assistance programs after the sunset of OZPP; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Office of the Governor (GOV) to fund the extended operations of OZPP through FY 25; and authorizes GOV to transfer OZPP funding to other expending agencies, as necessary, to implement OZPP.

B&F 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.

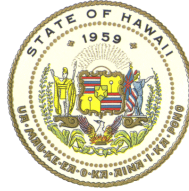
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.

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 Houses Committees on
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
and
HOUSING**

**Friday, March 18, 2022
11:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference

**SENATE BILL 3168, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Bill 3168 Senate Draft 2 proposes to extend the pilot Ohana Zone Program another five years, provide funding to the Ohana Zones Program, and establish a permanent Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon the expiration of the pilot program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Ohana Zone Program has been very successful in part because a variety of housing solutions have been created under its umbrella. The Department will defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority with regard to its ability to house this program. The Department notes that most of the Ohana Zone funding went to the counties to address homeless issues within their jurisdictions as they thought best. This led to a variety of homeless housing solutions, ranging from temporary tent shelters at the HONU to Hale Kipa Housing vouchers, to Kealahou affordable housing for homeless families. The Department believes that the flexibility to use Ohana Zone funding in ways that match the resources and needs of each county are very important to the success of the program.

The Department suggests that the metrics of success may need to change over time. For example, are Ohana Zones starter housing for the homeless, and do they move out over time, as measured in years rather than months, or do they become generational low low-income housing? Robust and thoughtful data collection can help the state address the issues our lowest income residents in informed and thoughtful ways, provided the program is flexible enough to face the challenges of an ever-changing population.

Thank you for this 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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 18, 2022

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

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

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

SUBJECT: **SB 3168 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Friday, March 18, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure.

The Coordinator defers to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding section 3 of this bill, which upon the June 30, 2028 expiration of the Ohana Zones pilot program establishes an Ohana Zones program within HPHA to provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals and families based on principles like the Housing First program. Additionally, the Coordinator notes that Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010 moved the Homeless Programs Office (HPO) from HPHA to be an office within the DHS Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD).

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2028. The bill also appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent Ohana Zones program within HPHA upon expiration of the pilot program.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments by the Senate Committees on Ways and Means to insert language in the measure's appropriation section to provide that all moneys from the appropriation that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2025 shall lapse as of that date.

Notably, this amendment will provide more time to encumber any appropriations related to the pilot program.

In December 2021, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) – a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator – adopted policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session, including a specific focus on promoting affordable housing for people transitioning from homelessness through an extension of the Ohana Zones program. Since its establishment in 2018, the Ohana Zones pilot program supported 20 projects statewide. As of November 2021, the Ohana Zones pilot program aided 5,510 homeless individuals statewide, including 1,368 placed into permanent housing.

The [Ohana Zones pilot program](#) provided flexible funding for the State and counties to develop innovative programs reflecting the local needs of specific communities, including rural areas of Hawaii island and Oahu. Based on regional needs, Ohana Zones funding supported expansion of emergency shelter and navigation programs, as well as permanent housing projects for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. Examples of Ohana Zones include the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered \(HONU\)](#) program on Oahu, as well as permanent housing projects such as [Kamaoku Kauhale](#), [Huliau](#), [Kealaula at Pua Loke](#), [Kumuwai](#), and [Hale Maluhia](#). The flexibility of Ohana Zones also enabled the State and counties to rapidly adjust and expand shelter capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as demonstrated by the [Ka Lamaku](#) and [Hale Hanakahi](#) projects. The [HICH annual legislative report](#)¹ provides a detailed overview and evaluation of the Ohana Zones pilot program.

Separate evaluation reports for each year of the program are available at:

<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/ohana-zones-evaluation/>.

A key strength of the Ohana Zones pilot program are the contracts executed directly between the Coordinator's office and the four counties instead of with individual service providers. The direct contracts with the counties enable the counties to leverage county-level funding, land, and facilities to supplement Ohana Zones funding. For example, the Kumuwai and Hale Maluhia projects on Oahu leverage facilities owned by the City & County of Honolulu

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

and purchased with City funds. Similarly, the Keolahou Assessment Center on Hawaii island leveraged land and facilities under the jurisdiction of Hawaii County. In addition, the HONU program leverages City park facilities to provide space for the program. The close partnership between State and counties to implement Ohana Zones acknowledges that addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility.

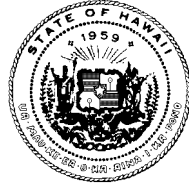
An extension of the Ohana Zones pilot program will provide additional resources to address increasing levels of homelessness and housing instability statewide. In January 2021, the Economic Roundtable released [a report](#) that projected the pandemic recession would increase chronic homelessness nationwide by 49% over the next four years.² Similarly, historical data for the statewide homeless Point in Time (PIT) count also indicates demand for homeless services is likely to increase in the wake of the current economic recession. Following the last significant downturn in 2009, the statewide PIT count increased 37% between 2009 and 2016. On a more hopeful note, statewide PIT count data also reflected stark decreases in homelessness between 2016 and 2020, indicating it is possible to reverse upward trends in homelessness with a concentrated focus and investment in housing-focused strategies, such as Ohana Zones.

The HICH acknowledges Ohana Zones are just one piece of a more comprehensive effort to address homelessness, which includes reducing upfront barriers to accessing rental housing and expanding programs that assist key homeless sub-populations (e.g., unsheltered youth, adults with severe mental illness, etc.). For more information about the 2022 HICH policy priorities, visit: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/advocacy>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

² Report available at: <https://economicrt.org/publication/locked-out/>

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

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3168 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

March 18, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent to extend the Ohana Zone pilot program and proposed appropriation of \$15,000,000 as these are similar to administration proposal SB3108/HB2140. However, the administration measure only extends the Ohana Zone pilot program for three years instead of five years and does not propose establishing a permanent program.

The Department is concerned that the SD1 establishes the Ohana Zones program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and not DHS; though HPHA has a rental supplement program, HPHA does not contract services for Housing First or other homeless services. The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General and HPHA on relevant parts.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to extend the sunset date of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program from 6/30/2023 to 6/30/2028. Establishes an Ohana Zones Program within the

Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot program. Appropriates moneys.
Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The SDI made significant amendments as follows:

- (1) Establishing an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as part of its Rental Assistance Programs, rather than within the Department of Human Services, upon expiration of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program on June 30, 2028;
- (2) Inserting a \$15,000,000 appropriation amount for the extension of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program and expenses related to facility construction, renovation, and maintenance; provision of services and staffing; and administrative costs;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 made further amendments:

- (1) Adding a new section to the measure that would allow a person receiving accommodations or services from an Ohana Zone Pilot Program site to request a ninety-day extension of the person's receipt of accommodations or services;
- (2) Inserting language in the measure's appropriation section to provide that all moneys from the appropriation that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2025, shall lapse as of that date, and deleting language that would have permitted transfer of funds unused by June 30, 2028, to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority;
- (3) Changing the appropriation from \$15,000,000 to an unspecified amount;
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (5) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Ohana Zone pilot program has successfully supported innovative programs that address services gaps, especially for services where no federal programs or funds exist. Transitioning the pilot program into a permanent one may be feasible with an additional five years of data and experience, permanent funding, and increased staff resources.

However, the proposal to place the program in HPHA versus DHS may not be the most appropriate. Per Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010 (Act 89),¹ the Homeless Programs Office was moved from HPHA to the DHS Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division, as,

"[t]he benefit, employment, and support services division [BESSD] is the appropriate place within the Department of human services to embed homeless programs since the division offers programs that give homeless individuals the tools to attain self-sufficiency, such as employment and job training, child care, and general assistance. This realignment will improve the Department of human services' coordination and delivery of homeless services to Hawaii's homeless population, both individuals and families." See Act 89.

The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) within BESSD is one option that is a more appropriate placement for a permanent program for the same reasons noted in Act 89 and because the HPO contracts all other homeless services programs. Also, the current executive budget request includes one contract specialist to support HPO's current contracts. For HPO to take on additional contracts, two more permanent contract or procurement specialists are needed.

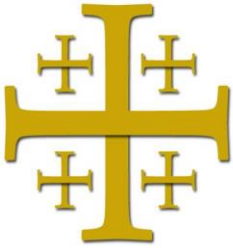
The other option would be for the Ohana Zone program to remain with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and that two permanent or procurement specialists be established as part of the Coordinator's staff. Placing the permanent program with the Coordinator may be advantageous as the Coordinator is authorized to work on behalf of the Governor with County governments, a significant component of the innovative and successful strategy of the current Ohana Zones pilot program projects.

The Department also suggests that DHS or the Governor's Coordinator use a portion of the proposed appropriation to evaluate the pilot.

Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not supplant or reduce existing budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

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

¹ See, Act 89, SLH 2010, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Archives/measure_indiv_Archives8-12.aspx?billnumber=910&billtype=SB&year=2010



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

75-5769 Ali'i Drive • Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
PH: (808) 326-7771 • Email: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org
Website: stmichaelparishkona.org

March 16, 2022

Chairs and Members
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
House Committee on Housing

RE: SB 3168 SD2 – Support

SB3168 will continue Ohana Zones program

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Kailua Kona. As a eucharistic Catholic community, our mission is to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. We believe in the sanctity of all human life. We believe everyone deserves to be housed and given support to be successful citizens.

Ohana Zone projects funded by the Hawaii Legislature during the past three years has created supportive housing for hundreds of homeless individuals and families. Twenty projects were created that other federal funding could not address. These projects built on the strengths of the local communities that know their needs. The funding provided an opportunity to respond to these needs in new and creative ways. Working with the counties was an important part of this funding and should be continued. The initial pilot program demonstrated that addressing the issue of homelessness on the local level through Ohana Zones funding was effective. Hundreds of beds were added to the homeless service network.

During the past three years, some Ohana Zones projects only needed one time funding to create housing. Others that provide ongoing services will need continued funding including Kukuioia, the Hawaii County supportive shelters and housing being constructed in West Hawaii.

We urge your support for funding to continue and expand the Ohana Zones program during this next phase of the pilot program as one of the many strategies to provide housing for our most vulnerable individuals and families.

Humbly,

Shirley David
Pastoral Council Chair
St. Michael the Archangel Church

ONE CATHOLIC OHANA

St. Michael the Archangel *Kailua-Kona* • St. Peter by the Sea *Kahalu'u* • Immaculate Conception *Holualoa* • St. Paul *Kawanui* • Holy Rosary *Kalaea*

SB-3168-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:58:26 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/18/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick F. Hurney	Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, we strongly support SB 3168!

Please extend the pilot program for an additional five years through 06/30/2028.

While it keeps the reporting requirements to the legislature on the pilot program each year, it deletes the language signaling certain information that must be included in each year's report.

Upon the expiration of the pilot program in 2028, establishes a permanent Ohana Zones program within HPHA's rental assistance programs to provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals and families based on the principles of the housing first program.

Mahalo

Patrick F. Hurney, Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168 SD2: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committees on Health, Human Services & Homelessness, and Housing

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: Friday, March 18, 2022; 11:00 am; via videoconference

Chair San Yamane, Chair Nakamura, and Members, Committees on Health, Human Services & Homelessness, and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support** of SB 3168,SD2, which extends the sunset date of the Ohana Zone pilot project from 6/30/2023 to 6/30/2028, and establishes an Ohana Zone program within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority at the expiration of the pilot program. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners In Care (PIC).

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports extending the Ohana Zone pilot program and providing additional funding, as well as making it permanent. During the past 3 years, some Ohana Zone projects only needed one time funding to create housing. Others that provide ongoing services will need continued funding. Twenty projects were created that other federal funding could not address. These projects built on the strengths of the local communities that know their needs. The funding provided an opportunity to respond to these needs in new and creative ways. Working with the counties was an important part of this funding and should be continued.

The initial pilot program demonstrated that addressing the issue of homelessness on the local level through Ohana Zone funding was effective. Hundreds of beds were added to the homeless service network, including creative initiatives like tiny homes.

We urge your support to continue the Ohana Zone program and allocate the resources needed to fund them for the next 5 years.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or alohabettylou@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



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



OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI

18 March 2022

House Committees on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness and Housing

Hearing Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 3168 SD 2, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha mai e Chairs Yamane and Nakamura, Vice-Chairs Tam and Hashimoto, and members of the Committees:

We are writing in support of SB 3168 SD 2, relating to homelessness. This bill extends the ohana zones pilot program to 06/30/2028. It appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent ohana zones program within the Department of Human Services upon expiration of the pilot program.

We are in support of the continuation of the ohana zones program and believe that it is serving its intended purpose to provide critical services to the State's homeless population. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is especially concerned about homelessness among youth, with research showing that youth aged 12–17 are at higher risk than adults of becoming homeless. According to a recent report, transition-aged youth between 18 and 24 years are one of the fastest growing homeless populations. Homeless youth often do not receive adequate services. They may not meet shelter admission policies, and, at times, there is a lack of bed space for youth. Although homeless young adults can use shelter services, services may not always be a good fit for the needs of the transitioning population. This bill is an important step among many that need to be taken to address homelessness in our community. We ask that you support it.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth, promoting equity in the justice system, and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 3168 SD 2.

A COLLABORATION OF THE HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, OLOMANA SCHOOL, KINA 'EHA, HALE KIPA, RYSE, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, 1099 ALAKEA ST., STE. 2530, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 447-1840 WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM/

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT SB 3168, SD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House of Representatives, Committees on Health, Human Services,
& Homelessness; and Housing

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Friday, March 18th, 2022, 11:00 am via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Yamane, Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committees on Health, Housing, & and Human Services; and Housing :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 3168, SD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**. This measure will provide additional funding, extend the lifetime of the pilot project and establish a permanent ohana zones program.

Over the last 3 years, there have been several innovative programs created within the ohana zones throughout the islands. 20 programs were created that other federal funding is not able to address. These programs have added hundreds of beds to the homeless service system including emergency shelter, tiny homes and more, which is essential in addressing the issue of homelessness. We support the continuation of this program and the resources needed to fund them for the next 5 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testifying on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Aloha

SB 3168 SD 2 TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
House Committee on Housing
Hearing on March 18, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

Housing prices have steadily increased for decades in Hawaii, while wages have stagnated. Fewer and fewer people can afford housing, and as a result, homelessness has continued to grow. This bill provides housing for homeless people by extending the Ohana Zones pilot project for three years and appropriating funds for it.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The measure of society is how it treats the weakest members." This bill elevates our entire society.



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawai'i, Inc.
Hearing: HHH/HSG on 03-18-22

Aloha,

My name is Brandee Menino and I am the CEO of Hope Services Hawai'i. Our agency is Hawai'i Island's largest nonprofit homeless services provider, and has had success in serving our most vulnerable neighbors using 'Ohana Zones funding. This could not have happened without our partnership with the governor's office, whose approval allowed us to expedite the process, and begin offering services as quickly as possible. We appreciate the legislature's innovation in establishing the 'Ohana Zones program, and commitment to its continued success.

We strongly **support SB 3168**, which would extend the sunset date for the 'Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2028, and establish an 'Ohana Zones Program within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot program.

Currently, the funding for 'Ohana Zones programs are set to expire in 2023. If the 'Ohana Zones funds are not extended in the next legislative session, alternative funding sources (such as private donations) will need to be identified or else they could be eliminated.

By extending 'Ohana Zones funding, we can continue to move the needle on homelessness together.

Mahalo nui for considering our testimony in **support of SB 3168**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandee Menino".

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
357 Waianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 935-3050
fax: (808) 935-3794

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Dean Au
Vice-President
Peter Hoffmann

Secretary
Patrick Hurney
Treasurer
Charlene Iboshi

Directors
Gwen DeCoito
David Kurohara
Anne Harpham
Rev. Robert Stark, SSS
Michael Stimson

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

KAUA'I COUNTY HOUSING AGENCY

ADAM ROVERSI, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Adam P. Roversi
Director, Kaua'i County Housing Agency

Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness and House Committee on Housing
Friday, March 18, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

In consideration of
Senate Bill 3168 SD2 Relating to 'Ohana Zones

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam of the Committee on Health Human Services, And Homelessness, and Honorable Chair Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair Troy N. Hashimoto of the Committee on Housing, and Members of the Committees:

The Kaua'i County Housing Agency **strongly supports with recommended amendments** SB3168 SD2, which extends the 'Ohana Zone pilot program to June 30, 2028.

On Kaua'i the 'Ohana Zone Program facilitated the construction and operation of Kealaula, our very first Supportive Housing Project for homeless families. This 28-unit project houses just under 70 individuals all of whom were previously living on the street. As part of their occupancy, tenants receive tailored supportive services on site designed to assist them in eventually transitioning to market-based housing. The 'Ohana Zone program provided just under 50% of the construction costs of Kealaula and provided one hundred percent of the costs for project management and wrap around social services over three years.

This welcome funding was, however, only one part of what made this 'Ohana Zone project so successful. We were able to construct Kealaula from design to move-in less than 12 months at a per unit cost of approximately \$125,000 per unit, which is less than one-third the cost of typical affordable housing projects in Hawai'i. We were able to construct Kealaula in record time at a dramatically reduced cost because the 'Ohana Zone program operated hand in hand with Governor Ige's Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness. This emergency proclamation waived numerous statutory provisions that typically add significant time and expense to any affordable housing construction endeavor. Most importantly, the Governor's Proclamation waived Historic Preservation Review, Environmental Review, Procurement Requirements, and Prevailing Wage requirements. But for these exemptions we would likely have added another year to our project completion and increased costs per unit costs significantly. Instead of continuously providing desperately needed housing to 28 families and graduating 12 families to permanent housing since January of 2021, would only now be completing the project.



To streamline future 'Ohana Zone supportive housing projects we encourage the committee to adopt exemptions for qualified projects similar to those previously included in Governor Ige's Emergency Homeless Proclamation. To ensure that needed transitional homes, supportive housing, emergency shelters and assessment centers get built in a timely and cost-effective manner we ask that the following exemptions be added to this bill.

- (1) Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, historic preservation;
- (2) Section 37-41, appropriations to revert to state treasury;
- (3) Section 37-74 (d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, program execution, except for subsections 37-74 (d) (2) and (3), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any such transfers or changes shall be considered authorized transfers or changes for purposes of section 34-74(d) (1) Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative reporting requirement;
- (4) Section 40-66, Hawaii Revised Statutes, lapsing of appropriations;
- (5) Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, county organization and administration as any county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act;
- (8) Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public agency meetings and records, to the extent that any notice requirements or any other provisions of chapter 92 may delay the expeditious action, decision, or approval of any agency;
- (9) Section 102-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts for concessions in government buildings; bid requirements;
- (10) Section 103-2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, general fund;
- (11) Section 103-53 Hawaii Revised Statutes, contracts with the State or counties; tax clearances, assignments;
- (12) Section 103-55 Hawaii revised Statutes, wages, hours, and working conditions of employees of contractors performing services

- (13) Chapter 103D Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii public procurement code;
- (14) Chapter 103F Hawaii Revised Statutes, purchases of health and human services;
- (15) Chapter 104 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Wages and hours of employees on public works;
- (16) Sections 105-1 to 105-10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, use of government vehicles, limitations;
- (18) Chapter 171 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public lands;
- (19) Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Land use commissions;
- (20) Chapter 205A Hawaii Revised Statutes, coastal zone management;
- (21) Chapter 206E Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii community development authority;
- (22) Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental impact statements;
- (23) Chapter 346 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Social services;
- (24) Section 464-4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, public works required to be supervised by certain professionals.

In recommending these exemptions we are aware of concerns expressed by the State Flood Program Coordinator that a blanket exemption for Chapter 46 may endanger the state's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. We believe this concern can be easily addressed by inserting additional language providing:

“Statutory exemptions shall not include HRS 46-1.5(5)(D) relating to the implementation of Federal Flood Insurance Act of 1956.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.