

SCR-107

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:18:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Belatti, Chair and Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair and other Representatives of the Committee on Health & Homelessness.

As a nurse practitioner working in home based primary care, I am caring for people on every corner of Oahu. There certainly is a large homeless population in multiple regions of the island. I agree that more needs to be done to care for homeless people and help them obtain available resources. I think it is fabulous that there is a Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program. It should be expanded to reach more people and help them with health care and social issues that need to be addressed. I do support the resolution. However, the concurrent resolution does not give specifics on how the Outreach will be financially supported, how many new employees will be hired, and what disciplines are needed to help in the care of this population. It may well prove effective but not without adequate staff and volunteers. As a nurse for over 30 years, I have seen what inadequate staffing can do to the existing staff. We must be mindful of the needs of the program for it to grow and continue to be effective in its mission.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

April 13, 2023 at 2:45 p.m.

by

Kaylee Glagau

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SCR 107: Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program; City and County of Honolulu;
Homelessness

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and committee members,

Thank you for the chance to hear my oral testimony regarding my support for SCR 107/HCR162 which is related to crisis outreach response and engagement program to provide regular care and services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

My name is Kaylee Glagau and I am a student at the University of Hawaii. I am currently in my third year of study and am majoring in Social Work. I am very passionate about the world and children.

I am in full support of this bill to be passed. This bill will help immensely the lives of those impacted and increase their quality of life. According to the "National Alliance to End Homelessness", 6,530 people are homeless on a given night in Hawaii. Not only will this bill look to assist the lives of those impacted by homelessness, but it will also provide job opportunities and provide lifelong techniques and strategies. This bill would help limit the number of homeless individuals and could help other areas of life in Hawaii as well. We could see an increase in quality of life, job attainability, employment rates, education rates, and more. If you walk the streets of Waikiki or almost anywhere in Hawaii, the evergrowing homeless population is very evident, most

of these individuals did not ask for this to be their life, and yet we see them often and in less than decent circumstances. If we cannot provide services and necessities for those of our society at their lowest, then how much are we truly helping people? This bill is a great start to limiting homelessness and increasing aspects of many people's lives.

It is for the reasons above that I am in extreme support of the passing of SCR 107. I think that having a government-funded program that helps the homeless population has many benefits and can help the future of North America and the world. We must care for the people as they are the future, and this bill is one way we can do that.

Thank you for your time,

Kaylee Glagau

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Oral testimony:

Hello, chair Woodson, vice chair Marten, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. My name is Kaylee Glagau. I am a student at the University of Hawaii. I am here today to share my testimony in support of HB 54, which would establish a school psychologist incentive program. It can be extremely helpful to have certified psychologists in schools and I believe that it can greatly help students not just short term but long term. To become a psychologist, there is a lot they must learn and study, but it is for this reason that they are the most prepared to help others. They have specific tools, techniques, and strategies that can assist students in navigating the world. Having someone available to share what they are going through can help students learn healthy habits and can thus positively affect their future. Personally, I know that when I was growing up in school, I would have benefitted from having a psychologist. Many of the experiences and trauma we go through as adolescents/children we take with us as we grow up, tackling the issues as they arise can be more effective and efficient rather trying to tackle them years and years later. Especially with the recent effects of COVID and the mental health problems that have arisen since, passing this bill can be very beneficial and helpful. According to the CDC, 31% of Americans have experienced symptoms of anxiety or depression. Passing House Bill 54 can help better shape our society's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SCR-107

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 12:23:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Gosney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is Michael Gosney and I am an Master's of Social Work student at UH Mānoa. I work in Mental Health Case Management on the island of Maui and have direct experience working with homeless folks in crisis. Having direct knowledge and experience in this area, I am in full support of this bill. Funding crisis outreach teams to provide regular care and services to individuals experiencing homelessness is crucial for a variety of reasons.

First, individuals experiencing homelessness often face multiple challenges in accessing healthcare, including physical barriers such as transportation and financial barriers such as lack of insurance. Additionally, the stigma of homelessness can further isolate these individuals and prevent them from accessing the care they need. Crisis outreach teams can help bridge this gap by bringing healthcare services directly to these individuals in their communities, making it easier for them to access care.

Second, individuals experiencing homelessness often have complex medical needs that are not being met. They may suffer from chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and substance abuse disorders, all of which require ongoing medical care and support. Regular care from crisis outreach teams can help these individuals manage their health conditions and prevent them from becoming more severe and costly.

Third, crisis outreach teams can provide a range of other services beyond healthcare, including food and clothing distribution, case management, and assistance with finding housing and employment. By addressing these basic needs, crisis outreach teams can help individuals experiencing homelessness stabilize their lives and move towards self-sufficiency.

Funding crisis outreach teams to provide regular care and services to individuals experiencing homelessness is critical for improving their health outcomes, increasing access to care, and addressing the root causes of homelessness.