

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON MARCH 6, 2024 AT 10:00AM IN CR 308

IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

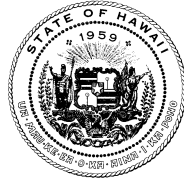
March 4, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1800. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request for FY 2025 includes funding to support the Department's existing personnel, administrative and operating costs. This budget includes: \$20 million for wildfire response, recovery, and prevention measures, 6.00 federally funded temporary FTE positions, and funds to support the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) program.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) approved the "Sufficient Sums" budget request, which the Department submitted to the Governor and the Legislature as detailed in our budget testimony that can be reviewed at: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM-HWN_01-09-24_HHL.pdf. We are grateful for the Governor's and Legislature's support of the Department. Nevertheless, we kindly ask for your endorsement of the HHC-approved "Sufficient Sums" request to ensure the Department's continued fulfillment of its responsibilities to Native Hawaiians, especially our beneficiaries.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 308

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

H.B. 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

To: Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** H.B. 1800 relating to the state budget, as this measure appropriates funding for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The process HSPLS used to develop and prioritize our budget requests is based on a review of our prior budget and actual expenditures for the previous years. We take the data and review it against our foundations for providing services (people, place, collections and services/programs) and we determine how to best meet our four areas of focus: strengthening literacy, igniting our digital future, creating opportunities for life enrichment, deepening community relationships. Areas of greatest need and potential impact on our ability to provide public library services to our communities are carefully balanced. Lastly, we considered how the budget request corresponds with our long-term priorities to meet the future needs of our communities.

The HSPLS supplemental budget requests for FY23-FY25:

General Fund Requests

1. **\$550,000 for Security Guard Services**

The additional funding is needed to meet the increased cost of security guard services going forward. Last legislative session, we estimated we needed an additional \$550,000 to be added to our base budget to ensure sufficient funding to meet the expected increase in the cost of security guard services. However, funding was only provided for FY24.

Note: We recently completed discussions with a new statewide security vendor. While we anticipate being able to manage the first year of the new contract with existing funding, the additional \$550,000 requested for FY2025 will not be sufficient for FY2026 and beyond; we will need to pursue a substantial increase in our base budget for security in the 2025 Legislative session.

2. **\$125,000 for Temporary locations for Princeville and Kaneohe**

HSPLS has construction projects that will temporarily close these locations for about one year. We will need to open temporary service locations as Princeville serves all north shore communities on Kauai, and the Kaneohe Library is a large regional library that serves a large number of communities between Kaneohe and Kahuku. The funding is primarily needed to lease space for the temporary services.

3. **\$125,000 for Temporary locations for Makawao and Lahaina**

This funding would support Maui libraries. We have an upcoming construction project for Makawao, which will temporarily close the library for at least a year. The Makawao Library is the only public library in upcountry Maui, so it is important to provide services to these communities. We are also looking to create a temporary library space for the community of Lahaina, while it heals and rebuilds.

Capital Improvement Project Request:

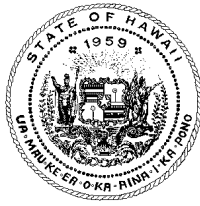
\$10,000,000 for the New Waikoloa Public Library

We are requesting an additional \$10 million to supplement an earlier FY2024 appropriation of \$13 million to fully fund the building of this new public library in the rapidly growing community of Waikoloa. The project is in the preliminary design phase and is on track to go out to bid in 2025.

We must continue to invest in our public libraries. Strong public libraries support thriving, strong communities throughout Hawaii.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

By
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & via Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) supports House Bill (HB) 1800, which proposes to amend Act 164, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2023 that appropriates funds for the operating budget and capital improvements program (CIP) for the current fiscal biennium 2023-2025.

DCR's fiscal year 2024-2025 supplemental budget request for the operating budget is an additional \$434,864 in general funds. In total, we request 2,615.60 permanent positions, 43.00 temporary positions, and funding totaling \$318,943,387 for all means of financing.

Additionally, our capital improvement program (CIP) requests additional CIP funds of \$89.5 million for the supplemental fiscal year 2024-2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1800.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DBEDT DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DBEDT DEPUTY DIRECTOR



BRENNON T. MORIOKA
CHAIR, STADIUM AUTHORITY

RYAN G. ANDREWS
STADIUM MANAGER

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
DEPUTY STADIUM MANAGER

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

TESTIMONY
OF
RYAN G. ANDREWS, STADIUM MANAGER
STADIUM AUTHORITY
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
H.B. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee on Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 1800, which provides the ceiling increase for the Stadium Development Special Fund (SDSF) for FY2025 to allow Stadium Authority (BED180/SA) to allot and expend the \$49.5M funds appropriated in Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 and by proviso 17.3 authorized the deposit of \$49.5M appropriation into the SDSF. The lapse date was extended to 06/30/2024 by Act 35, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

The ceiling increase will provide SA with a great amount of flexibility to utilize these funds to support the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project.

Additionally, the increase in SDSF ceiling will allow SA to contribute to the NASED project's long-term sustainability, ensuring its continued success and positive impact on the Hawai'i's communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1800.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
H.B. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

We appreciate the Committee's time at our budget briefing in January and we continue to support our submitted budget requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/06/2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Purpose of Bill: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Department's Position:

Department: Education

Testifier: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Purpose of Bill: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1800 with concerns.

As many will recall, the operating budget for the Department passed last year with structural deficiencies, that included:

- significantly less State funding included in the final draft of the budget than had been included in the Governor proposal and both the House and Senate Drafts;
- unfunded needs that were intended to help mitigate the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fiscal cliff;

- a large base budget cut; and
- funding for several recurring expenses either funded in the first fiscal year only or labeled as non-recurring following this biennium in the budget worksheets.

Fortunately, in Fiscal Year (FY) 24, \$200 million was added to the Department of Budget and Finance which allowed the Governor to address the immediate situation. Between relying on the base budget left in place, funding provided by the Governor, and federal ESSER funds, the Department has in large part been able to manage through FY 24, the first year of the biennium budget. **It is the second year of the biennium budget, FY 25, that additional State funding is critically needed to allow the Department to sustain basic school operations and maintain appropriate levels of student support.**

At the pre-session Informational Briefing on the Supplemental Budget and in various discussions since then, **the Department has consistently expressed its sincere gratitude that HB 1800 increases funding for costs associated with major areas of basic operations (food service, transportation, and utilities), and also our grave concerns that the proposed funding falls short of meeting student and student support needs.**

Operating Budget:

The proposed operating budget focuses on supporting critical basic necessities and filling large gaps for the Department such as utilities (\$15 million), workers’ compensation benefits (\$10 million), school safety (\$18 million), school food service (\$21 million), and student transportation (\$18.3 million).

The table below shows the Department’s current FY 25 appropriation, the additions included in HB 1800, and then the total proposed operating budget for FY 25 by EDN, for general funds only:

EDN	EDN Description	Act 164/2023 FY 25	HB 1800 Additions FY 25	HB 1800 Totals FY 25 (Proposed)
100	School-Based Budgeting	\$1,179,452,497	\$28,877,674	\$1,208,330,171
150	Special Education and Student Support Services	\$460,200,205	\$7,622,245	\$467,822,450
200	Instructional Support	\$81,932,890	\$801,679	\$82,734,569
300	State Administration	\$63,493,429	-\$251,679	\$63,241,750
400	School Support	\$241,054,079	\$74,516,346	\$315,570,425
500	School Community Services	\$5,075,127	\$0	\$5,075,127
	Total General Funds	\$2,031,208,227	\$111,566,265	\$2,142,774,492

Note: Excludes EDN 450 School Facilities Authority and EDN 700 Early Learning

The Department is very appreciative of the initial level of support this measure provides, \$111.6 million in additional funding, and is cognizant of the challenges facing the State. Although the additional funding provides support for critical basic necessities, equally important are areas that the proposed budget does not include - mainly requests that fund instructional and student supports.

The Department's original operating budget request for FY 25 totaled \$198.2 million of which \$111.6 million was included in HB 1800. The table below summarizes the amounts included and excluded in HB 1800 by broad categories.

Request Category	Department Requests FY 25*	HB 1800 Additions FY 25**	Difference
Weighted Student Formula	\$33,016,281	\$0	-\$33,016,281
Student Achievement and Enrichment	\$37,894,528	\$500,000	-\$37,394,528
Special Education and Mental Health Supports	\$19,273,754	\$8,172,245	-\$11,101,509
Teacher and Staff Retention	\$23,400,879	\$18,377,674	-5,023,205
Essential Support Services	\$15,488,565	\$10,000,000	-\$5,488,565
Infrastructure	\$21,750,000	\$17,250,000	-4,500,000
Student Meals and Transportation	\$39,266,346	\$39,266,346	\$0
School Safety	\$8,060,912	\$18,000,000	\$9,939,088
Total	\$198,151,265	\$111,566,265	-\$86,585,000

*The Department Requests are the budget requests put forth by the Department to the Governor for his consideration for inclusion in the Executive Budget (HB 1800) during the annual budget development process.

**The HB 1800 Additions are the budget requests approved by the Governor.

As shown in the table, the proposed operating budget includes no additional funding for Weighted Student Formula (WSF), which provides direct funding for schools, although \$33 million was requested. As part of the WSF request, the Department included additional funding for small and remote schools. Additionally, related to the category of Student Achievement and Enrichment, the proposed budget does not include additional funding for summer school.

There are several other items related to instructional and student supports that are not included in the proposed budget. Further information on all of the Department's budget requests was previously provided to the Finance Committee (Committee) and Committee Staff.

The Department faces several challenges and opportunities going into the next fiscal year, FY 25:

1. **State Funding Cliff:** The Department will have substantially less in State recurring general funds next fiscal year (FY 25) compared to this fiscal year (FY 24);
2. **Federal Funding Cliff:** The \$640 million federal ESSER program intended to bridge the gap in the State's ability to maintain support for public education and address student needs is coming to an end as of September 30, 2024;
3. **High Inflation/Escalating Costs:** Non-payroll costs for critical basic necessities have increased, such as utilities, school food services, and student transportation;
4. **Pandemic-Related Impacts on Student Learning:** Demand for student supports to offset learning loss and social-emotional needs continues. Feedback from school leaders

has been clear that programs such as free summer school and additional resources in the classroom have made a significant difference in their students' learning; and

- 5. Board of Education/Department Strategic Plan:** The Department is working on continuous improvements to advance our three strategic plan priorities: High-Quality Learning for All, High-Quality Educator Workforce In All Schools, and Effective and Efficient Operations at All Levels.

While students all across the country were negatively impacted by the pandemic, Hawaii's public schools are seeing a stronger and faster recovery than many other states. Our schools and students have made great strides coming out of the pandemic, and further investment is needed because pandemic-related impacts on education are ongoing.

In light of State general fund revenue increases of 27% over the last two years (FY 21 - FY 23), and the Council on Revenues forecast in January 2024 anticipating growth over the last two years plus this year to reach 32% (FY 21 - FY 24 projected), the Department humbly requests the Committee's further consideration for requests not included in HB 1800.

CIP Budget:

Regarding the CIP budget, the Department is also appreciative of the initial level of support this measure provides for our public school facilities. HB 1800 provides \$85 million in additional CIP appropriations for FY 25 for the following projects:

- \$10 million for Sewer System at King Kekaulike High School;
- \$26 million for Lump Sum CIP - Compliance, Statewide; and
- \$49 million for Lump Sum CIP - Project Completion

Funding for the sewer system at King Kekaulike High School is critically needed to replace the sewer system that has partially failed at the school. Funding for Lump Sum Compliance is needed for corrective work to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards and Title IX gender equity laws. The Lump Sum Project Completion request provides funding for projects that may have insufficient funding to complete.

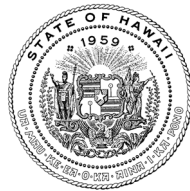
Investment in our public school facilities ensures our students have access to safe, accessible, and supportive school facilities conducive to effective teaching and learning and facilitate student success.

Conclusion:

Hawaii public school students are making positive strides during difficult times. It is imperative that predictable, reliable, and adequate funding is in place to maintain our trajectory. The Department deeply appreciated hearing the concerns and guidance of the Finance Committee at our January 10, 2024 budget briefing and has worked to align its communication of the needs of public schools accordingly.

The Department remains firmly committed to ensuring that all of our graduates are globally competitive and locally committed. With your help and support, we can keep the momentum moving forward for public education and our students.

Thank you for your consideration.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1800

March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

The Department of Budget and Finance strongly supports this bill.

House Bill No. 1800 is the FY 25 Executive Supplemental Budget bill. It amends Act 164, SLH 2023, to make adjustments to the Executive operating and capital improvement program FY 25 appropriations to address priority program requirements.

The Committee has heard detailed testimony from all of the Executive departments and agencies regarding their supplemental budget requests. And departmental staffs have responded to your Committee staff's questions and provided the additional information requested.

The Administration believes that we have sound justification for our supplemental budget requests and urge the Committee to pass the bill with minimal amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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 of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 1800 proposes to appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for Supplemental Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Operating Budget:

The Department respectfully requests for your favorable consideration of the following requests:

- LNR 801 / LNR 906: Transfer position (#46609 Office Assistant IV) and funds (\$66,188) from LNR 801 to LNR 906, MOF B.
- LNR 402: Add funds for fire suppression, readiness, response, and post-fire restoration and rehabilitation, \$7,425,000, MOF A.
- LNR 402: Add funds for fire and emergency response equipment, \$10,000,000, MOF A.
- LNR 405: Expenditure ceiling for S302 to aid in the Maui wildfire recovery, \$521,473, MOF B.
- LNR 801: Restore funding for 3 unfunded Boating & Ocean Recreation Harbor Agent II positions (#122224, #122226, and #122227), \$521,473, MOF B.
- LNR 401: Full year funding for 3 Fishery Technician IV positions (#120814, #120815, and #92342C), \$76,338, MOF A.
- LNR 401: Ceiling increase for Sport Fish Special Fund (S348), \$800,000, MOF B.

- LNR 401: Ceiling increase for Ocean Stewardship Special Fund (S341), \$1,600,000, MOF B.
- LNR 402: Add funds to support statewide ant research and control to be carried out by the Hawaii Ant Lab, \$500,000, MOF A.
- LNR 801: Ceiling increase in other current expenses to procure trucks/trailers for all four boating district branches, \$180,000, MOF B.
- LNR 801: Ceiling increase in other current expenses to procure two vessels for the Maui and Hawaii Boating District Branches, \$300,000, MOF B.
- LNR 172: Add funds for Forest Resource Management for improved forest and resource management for fire resilient landscapes, wildlife habitat, endangered species, including endangered forest birds, \$7,500,000, MOF A.
- LNR 806: Non-recurring ceiling increase for equipment and motor vehicles, \$2,000,000, MOF B.
- LNR 101: Add 3 positions for Climate Commission Staff (Senior Climate Advisor (exempt), Administrative Assistant V, Program Specialist IV), and funds for equipment to address climate emergency, \$145,000 (Salary); \$9,000 (Equipment), MOF A.
- LNR 101: Governor's adjustment: Ceiling increase for Public Land Trust Information System (PLTIS) update statewide, \$900,000, MOF A.

Capital Improvement Program Budget:

The Department requests your support of the projects as outlined in HB1800. A list of the Department's requests is attached.

The Department offers the following, additional comments:

- The Department's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.
- Projects were selected and prioritized based on wildfire recovery, public safety, compliance, and public trust resource protection, in accordance with statutory mandates that guide the Department's vision, mission, goals and objectives to manage resources for the benefit of the public, and to protect the resources and the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Prog ID	Project Title	ACT 164, SLH 2023 CIP Appropriations			FY25 Supplemental CIP Requests			TOTAL FB 2023-25 REQUESTS		
		FY 24	FY 25	MOF	Dept Priority #	FY 25	MO F	FY 24	FY 25	MO F
A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
LNR141	UPOLU WELL DEVELOPMENT, HAWAII	1,500,000	-	C				1,500,000	-	C
LNR141	ROCKFALL AND FLOOD MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	2,000,000	2,000,000	A				2,000,000	2,000,000	A
LNR172	KONA STORM KULA FOREST TRAIL REPAIR, MAUI	400,000	-	A				400,000	-	A
LNR172	MAUNAWILI ACQUISITION, OAHU	7,000,000	-	A				7,000,000	-	A
D. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION										
LNR401	FACILITY RENOVATION AT THE ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER (AFRC) ON SAND ISLAND, OAHU	350,000	-	A				350,000	-	A
LNR401	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX (SUB COMM LOT), OAHU	2,000,000	-	A				2,000,000	-	A
LNR401	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX (SUB COMM LOT), OAHU	2,500,000	-	C				2,500,000	-	C
LNR402	WEST MAUI AND UPCOUNTRY FIRE SUPPRESSION DIP TANKS (6), MAUI				2	360,000	C	-	360,000	C
LNR402	WEST MAUI AND UPCOUNTRY FIRE PREVENTION AND EROSION CONTROL, MAUI				5	2,000,000	C	-	2,000,000	C
LNR402	HILO OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT, HAWAII				14	265,000	C	-	265,000	C
LNR402	HILO OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT, HAWAII	185,000	-	A				185,000	-	A
LNR402	DOFAW OAHU BASEYARD IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	250,000	-	C				250,000	-	C
LNR402	KAWAINUI MARSH PROTECTION, OAHU	4,300,000	-	C				4,300,000	-	C
LNR402	DOFAW, OAHU	-	100,000	A				-	100,000	A
LNR402	PALAMANUI COMMUNITY FOREST RESERVE, HAWAII	500,000	-	C				500,000	-	C
LNR402	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	-	700,000	A				-	700,000	A
LNR402	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	-	1,000	N				-	1,000	N
LNR402	LEHUA ISLAND SEABIRD SANCTUARY, KAUAI	100,000	-	A				100,000	-	A
LNR404	DEEP MONITOR WELLS, STATEWIDE	2,000,000	2,000,000	A				2,000,000	2,000,000	A
LNR404	PLANNING FOR WATER REUSE IN STATE AND COUNTY FACILITIES, STATEWIDE	-	1,000,000	A				-	1,000,000	A
LNR405	DOCARE WAHIAWA SUBSTATION, OAHU	1,000,000	-	C				1,000,000	-	C
LNR407	WATERSHED PROTECTION AND INITIATIVES, STATEWIDE	5,000,000	5,000,000	A				5,000,000	5,000,000	A
LNR407	WEST MAUI TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, MAUI	350,000	350,000	A				350,000	350,000	A
LNR407	PUA LOKE BASEYARD ELECTRICAL, GAS TANK, AND ROOF REPAIRS, KAUAI	200,000	-	A				200,000	-	A
LNR407	KOOLAU ENDANGERED TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, OAHU	150,000	-	A				150,000	-	A
H. CULTURE AND RECREATION										
LNR801	KAWAIHAE NORTH SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII				56	8,000,000	C	-	8,000,000	C
LNR801	ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR, OAHU	4,300,000	-	C				4,300,000	-	C
LNR801	KIKIAOLA SBH SAND BYPASSING, KAUAI	2,100,000	-	C				2,100,000	-	C
LNR801	LAHAINA HARBOR PIER, MAUI	4,000,000	-	C				4,000,000	-	C

Prog ID	Project Title	ACT 164, SLH 2023 CIP Appropriations			FY25 Supplemental CIP Requests			TOTAL FB 2023-25 REQUESTS		
		FY 24	FY 25	MOF	Dept Priority #	FY 25	MO F	FY 24	FY 25	MO F
LNR801	MALA WHARF AND RAMP, MAUI	3,200,000	-	C				3,200,000	-	C
LNR801	POKAI BAY JETTY WALL IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	5,750,000	-	C				5,750,000	-	C
LNR801	WAILOA SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII	3,200,000	-	C				3,200,000	-	C
LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES PART-1, STWD	2,000,000	2,000,000	B				2,000,000	2,000,000	B
LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES PART-1, STWD	-	100,000	N				-	100,000	N
LNR801	POHOIKI BOAT RAMP DREDGING OF VOLCANIC DEBRIS, HAWAII	5,400,000	-	A				5,400,000	-	A
LNR801	POHOIKI BOAT RAMP DREDGING OF VOLCANIC DEBRIS, HAWAII	1,000	-	N				1,000	-	N
LNR804	WAIMANALO PATHWAYS, OAHU	-	2,500,000	A				-	2,500,000	A
LNR804	ALAKAI SWAMP BOARDWALK REPAIR, KAUAI	200,000	-	A				200,000	-	A
LNR806	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT STATE PARKS FACILITIES, STATEWIDE (B&F adjustment)					15,000,000	C	-	15,000,000	C
LNR806	DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT, OAHU	700,000	-	C				700,000	-	C
LNR806	DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT, FACILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	-	1,000,000	C				-	1,000,000	C
LNR806	SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA, OAHU	5,000,000	-	C				5,000,000	-	C
LNR806	FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE, STATE OF HAWAII MUSEUM OF MONARCHY HISTORY, OAHU	150,000	-	A				150,000	-	A
LNR806	STATE PARKS HAZARD MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, WAIMEA CANYON LOOKOUTS, KAUAI	1,000,000	1,000,000	C				1,000,000	1,000,000	C
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	2,000,000	2,000,000	C				2,000,000	2,000,000	C
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	500,000	500,000	N				500,000	500,000	N

K. GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUPPORT

LNR101	SHANGRI LA BREAKWATER REMOVAL, OAHU				8	700,000	C	-	700,000	C
LNR101	EAST KAPOLEI TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, OAHU				23	500,000	B	-	500,000	B
LNR101	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS (UNCLE BILLY'S), HILO, HAWAII				54	6,100,000	C	-	6,100,000	C
LNR101	HAWAIIAN PARADISE PARK, COMMUNITY PARK, HAWAII	560,000	-	C				560,000	-	C
LNR101	KAWEHWEHE BEACH (WAIKIKI), OAHU	650,000	-	A				650,000	-	A
LNR101	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS, HILO, HAWAII	8,000,000	-	D				8,000,000	-	D
LNR101	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	4,000,000	-	C				4,000,000	-	C

Subtotals by MOF:	26,135,000	13,650,000	A	-	A	26,135,000	13,650,000	A
	2,000,000	2,000,000	B	500,000	B	2,000,000	2,500,000	B
	45,860,000	4,000,000	C	32,425,000	C	45,860,000	36,425,000	C
	8,000,000	-	D	-	D	8,000,000	-	D
	501,000	601,000	N	-	N	501,000	601,000	N
	-	-	P	-	P	-	-	P
TOTALS - ALL MOF	82,496,000	20,251,000		32,925,000		82,496,000	53,176,000	

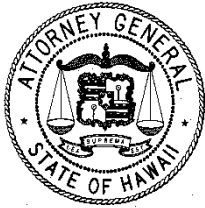
Prog ID	Project Title	ACT 164, SLH 2023 CIP Appropriations			FY25 Supplemental CIP Requests			TOTAL FB 2023-25 REQUESTS		
		FY 24	FY 25	MOF	Dept Priority #	FY 25	MO F	FY 24	FY 25	MO F
A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
LNR141	UPOLU WELL DEVELOPMENT, HAWAII	1,500,000	-	C				1,500,000	-	C
LNR141	ROCKFALL AND FLOOD MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	2,000,000	2,000,000	A				2,000,000	2,000,000	A
LNR172	KONA STORM KULA FOREST TRAIL REPAIR, MAUI	400,000	-	A				400,000	-	A
LNR172	MAUNAWILI ACQUISITION, OAHU	7,000,000	-	A				7,000,000	-	A
D. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION										
LNR401	FACILITY RENOVATION AT THE ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER (AFRC) ON SAND ISLAND, OAHU	350,000	-	A				350,000	-	A
LNR401	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX (SUB COMM LOT), OAHU	2,000,000	-	A				2,000,000	-	A
LNR401	INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX (SUB COMM LOT), OAHU	2,500,000	-	C				2,500,000	-	C
LNR402	WEST MAUI AND UPCOUNTRY FIRE SUPPRESSION DIP TANKS (6), MAUI				2	360,000	C	-	360,000	C
LNR402	WEST MAUI AND UPCOUNTRY FIRE PREVENTION AND EROSION CONTROL, MAUI				5	2,000,000	C	-	2,000,000	C
LNR402	HILO OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT, HAWAII				14	265,000	C	-	265,000	C
LNR402	HILO OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT, HAWAII	185,000	-	A				185,000	-	A
LNR402	DOFAW OAHU BASEYARD IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	250,000	-	C				250,000	-	C
LNR402	KAWAINUI MARSH PROTECTION, OAHU	4,300,000	-	C				4,300,000	-	C
LNR402	DOFAW, OAHU	-	100,000	A				-	100,000	A
LNR402	PALAMANUI COMMUNITY FOREST RESERVE, HAWAII	500,000	-	C				500,000	-	C
LNR402	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	-	700,000	A				-	700,000	A
LNR402	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	-	1,000	N				-	1,000	N
LNR402	LEHUA ISLAND SEABIRD SANCTUARY, KAUAI	100,000	-	A				100,000	-	A
LNR404	DEEP MONITOR WELLS, STATEWIDE	2,000,000	2,000,000	A				2,000,000	2,000,000	A
LNR404	PLANNING FOR WATER REUSE IN STATE AND COUNTY FACILITIES, STATEWIDE	-	1,000,000	A				-	1,000,000	A
LNR405	DOCARE WAHIAWA SUBSTATION, OAHU	1,000,000	-	C				1,000,000	-	C
LNR407	WATERSHED PROTECTION AND INITIATIVES, STATEWIDE	5,000,000	5,000,000	A				5,000,000	5,000,000	A
LNR407	WEST MAUI TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, MAUI	350,000	350,000	A				350,000	350,000	A
LNR407	PUA LOKE BASEYARD ELECTRICAL, GAS TANK, AND ROOF REPAIRS, KAUAI	200,000	-	A				200,000	-	A
LNR407	KOOLAU ENDANGERED TREE SNAIL PREDATOR PROOF FENCE, OAHU	150,000	-	A				150,000	-	A
H. CULTURE AND RECREATION										
LNR801	KAWAIHAE NORTH SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII				56	8,000,000	C	-	8,000,000	C
LNR801	ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR, OAHU	4,300,000	-	C				4,300,000	-	C
LNR801	KIKIAOLA SBH SAND BYPASSING, KAUAI	2,100,000	-	C				2,100,000	-	C
LNR801	LAHAINA HARBOR PIER, MAUI	4,000,000	-	C				4,000,000	-	C

Prog ID	Project Title	ACT 164, SLH 2023 CIP Appropriations			FY25 Supplemental CIP Requests			TOTAL FB 2023-25 REQUESTS		
		FY 24	FY 25	MOF	Dept Priority #	FY 25	MO F	FY 24	FY 25	MO F
LNR801	MALA WHARF AND RAMP, MAUI	3,200,000	-	C				3,200,000	-	C
LNR801	POKAI BAY JETTY WALL IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	5,750,000	-	C				5,750,000	-	C
LNR801	WAILOA SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII	3,200,000	-	C				3,200,000	-	C
LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES PART-1, STWD	2,000,000	2,000,000	B				2,000,000	2,000,000	B
LNR801	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION FACILITIES PART-1, STWD	-	100,000	N				-	100,000	N
LNR801	POHOIKI BOAT RAMP DREDGING OF VOLCANIC DEBRIS, HAWAII	5,400,000	-	A				5,400,000	-	A
LNR801	POHOIKI BOAT RAMP DREDGING OF VOLCANIC DEBRIS, HAWAII	1,000	-	N				1,000	-	N
LNR804	WAIMANALO PATHWAYS, OAHU	-	2,500,000	A				-	2,500,000	A
LNR804	ALAKAI SWAMP BOARDWALK REPAIR, KAUAI	200,000	-	A				200,000	-	A
LNR806	LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS AT STATE PARKS FACILITES, STATEWIDE (B&F adjustment)					15,000,000	C	-	15,000,000	C
LNR806	DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT, OAHU	700,000	-	C				700,000	-	C
LNR806	DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT, FACILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	-	1,000,000	C				-	1,000,000	C
LNR806	SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA, OAHU	5,000,000	-	C				5,000,000	-	C
LNR806	FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE, STATE OF HAWAII MUSEUM OF MONARCHY HISTORY, OAHU	150,000	-	A				150,000	-	A
LNR806	STATE PARKS HAZARD MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, WAIMEA CANYON LOOKOUTS, KAUAI	1,000,000	1,000,000	C				1,000,000	1,000,000	C
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	2,000,000	2,000,000	C				2,000,000	2,000,000	C
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE (FF) - PART 1	500,000	500,000	N				500,000	500,000	N

K. GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUPPORT

LNR101	SHANGRI LA BREAKWATER REMOVAL, OAHU				8	700,000	C	-	700,000	C
LNR101	EAST KAPOLEI TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, OAHU				23	500,000	B	-	500,000	B
LNR101	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS (UNCLE BILLY'S), HILO, HAWAII				54	6,100,000	C	-	6,100,000	C
LNR101	HAWAIIAN PARADISE PARK, COMMUNITY PARK, HAWAII	560,000	-	C				560,000	-	C
LNR101	KAWEHWEHE BEACH (WAIKIKI), OAHU	650,000	-	A				650,000	-	A
LNR101	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS, HILO, HAWAII	8,000,000	-	D				8,000,000	-	D
LNR101	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	4,000,000	-	C				4,000,000	-	C

Subtotals by MOF:	26,135,000	13,650,000	A	-	A	26,135,000	13,650,000	A
	2,000,000	2,000,000	B	500,000	B	2,000,000	2,500,000	B
	45,860,000	4,000,000	C	32,425,000	C	45,860,000	36,425,000	C
	8,000,000	-	D	-	D	8,000,000	-	D
	501,000	601,000	N	-	N	501,000	601,000	N
	-	-	P	-	P	-	-	P
TOTALS - ALL MOF	82,496,000	20,251,000		32,925,000		82,496,000	53,176,000	



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brenden B. Kinoshita, Administrative Services Manager

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill, specifically, those appropriations within the budget that provide funding for the continued operations of the Department for fiscal year 2025.

In summary, our budget requests reflect critical items in accordance with the Department's statutory mandates and our goals and objectives. The Department's supplemental budget requests include funding to restore leadership and support positions for the Investigation Division following the transfer of certain positions to the Department of Law Enforcement effective January 1, 2024; funding for the counties to support the Career Criminal Prosecution and Victim Witness Assistance programs; funding to incorporate the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission into the Department's base budget; and a number of cost-neutral housekeeping adjustments to align the Department's budget with our current operational needs.

We thank the Committee for allowing the Department to provide testimony and respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the requested appropriations.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING to the State Budget
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY
MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

March 5, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General and Director of Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense (DEF) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1800.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Department of Defense. Highlights in DODs request include:

\$1.7M in Army and Air National Guard Utilities.
~\$1M in Maui Brush Fire Project Positions and HIEMA salary Adjustments.
\$6.9M in State Matching funds to the \$24.7M Hazard Mitigation Grant.
\$3.5M in bond funds to improve the Youth Challenge Academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1800.

If you have any questions or need additional information to our response, please contact our Administrative Services Officer COL (retired) Rusty Spray at (808) 369-3458 or at rusty.spray@hawaii.gov.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, Kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Hawai'i State Energy Office – BED120's fiscal year (FY) 25 supplemental budget requests address HSEO's top priorities as the critical path to a resilient clean energy economy.

- 1) Additional funds in the amount of \$97,098 to cover the payroll shortfall will appropriately realign the budget with actual costs for an essential statutory position and allow the program to utilize OCE funds to support critical operational expenses.
- 2) Funding for cost match and working capital in the amount of \$700,000 is needed to support two significant projects.
 - The Advance Assistance 2.0 project is a FEMA funded priority hazard mitigation strategy for Maui, Hawai'i and Kaua'i counties. The budget line

item will ensure development with county and private sector partners of a Common Operating Picture (COP) for energy, identify mitigation actions in support of the State of Hawaii and County Hazard Mitigation Plans, and develop localized criteria for selecting grid resiliency projects under IIJA section 40101(d) funding. HSEO requires \$450,000 in FY25 as working capital, which will be reimbursed by the federal agency.

- The Integrating Resilience Strategies for ZEV Infrastructure project aims to enhance electric vehicle (EV) charging resiliency to support emergency response efforts and provide broader benefits to communities. HSEO will need \$250,000 in FY25 and \$750,000 in FY26 as working capital, which will be reimbursed by the federal agency.

HSEO respectfully requests your favorable consideration of these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

David Lassner

President

University of Hawai'i

and

Kalbert K. Young

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer

University of Hawai'i System

HB 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget. This bill adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of the Executive agencies and programs.

UH recognizes the uncertainty regarding the costs of the recovery and reconstruction efforts from the August wildfires and hopes that sufficient funding to sustain our mission will be available.

As the state's sole provider of public postsecondary education, we continue to strive to provide quality college and university education and training; create knowledge through research and scholarship; provide service through extension, technical assistance, and training; contribute to the cultural heritage of the community; and respond to state needs. We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to help the people of Hawai'i.

The following table represents all General Funded requests for additional funding and shows the budget request approved by the Board of Regents at its November 2023 meeting and what was included in the Governor's request. This table does not include transfers which do not affect the overall General Fund budget.

Campus	Description	Board Request		Governor Request	
		FTE	\$\$\$	FTE	\$\$\$
Mānoa	General Fund Restoration		\$ 5,600,000		\$ 5,600,000
JABSOM	General Fund Restoration		\$ 1,800,000		\$ 1,800,000
Hilo	General Fund Restoration		\$ 3,420,000		\$ 3,420,000
West O'ahu	General Fund Restoration		\$ 1,620,000		\$ 1,620,000
System Admin	General Fund Restoration		\$ 5,086,848		\$ 5,086,848
Mānoa	Athletics Subsidy		\$ 3,200,000		\$ 3,200,000
Hilo	Athletics Subsidy		\$ 400,000		\$ 400,000
Community Colleges	Culinary Institute of the Pacific - Full Year Funding		\$ 389,245		
Community Colleges	Value Added Product Center - Full Year Funding		\$ 359,932		
Mānoa	Expand Teacher Cohort on Neighbor Islands	7.00	\$ 625,000		
Mānoa	CTAHR Extension Agents	5.00	\$ 506,555	5.00	\$ 506,555
System Admin	Increased campus safety	4.00	\$ 1,000,000	moved to TFSF	
Mānoa	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 12,506,711		
Hilo	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 1,773,579		
West O'ahu	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 4,026,116		
Community Colleges	Hawai'i Promise Continuation		\$ 3,700,000		\$ 3,700,000
Community Colleges	Community-based Planning for Redevelopment of Lahaina	2.00	\$ 500,000		
Mānoa	Nursing Enrollment and Access thru UHM-UHWO Nursing Collaboration	6.50	\$ 1,068,821	6.50	\$ 1,068,821
JABSOM	Neighbor Island Health Access & Pathway Extension	4.00	\$ 925,000	4.00	\$ 925,000
Hilo	MA Counseling Psychology	3.00	\$ 210,000	3.00	\$ 210,000
West O'ahu	Pre-Nursing Support	3.00	\$ 322,032	3.00	\$ 322,032
West O'ahu	Early Childhood Education Support	2.00	\$ 180,910		
Hilo	BS Educational Studies & Expand Indigenous Teaching	4.00	\$ 285,000		
Community Colleges	Maui - Apprenticeship Training Expansion	-	\$ 250,000		
Community Colleges	LeeCC - Modernize Equipment	-	\$ 925,000		
System Admin	Systemwide Mental Health Services	6.00	\$ 510,000	6.00	\$ 510,000
Mānoa	Community Event Support	6.00	\$ 709,000		
West O'ahu	ACM Facilities & Core Services Support	4.00	\$ 252,648		

Campus	Description	Board Request		Governor Request	
		FTE	\$\$\$	FTE	\$\$\$
West O'ahu	Campus Safety	1.00	\$ 61,800		
Community Colleges	Maui - Water Quality Lab	2.00	\$ 160,000		
Mānoa	Stabilize UH Mānoa Athletics Operating Budget	43.00	\$ 3,136,642		
Mānoa	Cooperative Extension Support	5.00	\$ 581,555		
Community Colleges	WinCC - Incarcerated Students Program	3.00	\$ 250,528	3.00	\$ 250,528
Total		110.50	\$ 56,342,922	30.50	\$ 28,619,784

The top priority for UH is the restoration of our General Fund appropriation to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, continuation of current funding levels for the subsidy to UH's Athletics programs and specific appropriations made outside of the budget or full-year funding of additions to last year's budget are also UH priorities.

For new funding, the top initiative is the expansion of the Hawai'i Promise Program to our four-year institutions and additional general fund support for the Promise Program at the Community Colleges, who have had to make up the difference in recent years with institutional funding.

Additionally, requests to help address the current workforce shortage in our healthcare and education industries will not only assist with employing Hawai'i's citizens in good-paying jobs but will also benefit the entire state.

This space is intentionally left blank.

The following table delineates the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests for UH. Similar to the operating table, this shows both the Board-approved budget request and the Governor’s current request. New entries from GM1 are highlighted in light green. These projects are GO Bond funded, except where otherwise noted.

Campus	Description	Board Request	Gov Request
System/Mānoa	System, RIM Projects	\$ 110,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
Mānoa	RIM Projects for Student Housing	\$ 40,000,000	
Mānoa	Hale Noelani Renovation	\$ 80,000,000	
Mānoa	PV Rooftop, PV Canopies, and Various Energy Efficiency Projects	\$ 30,000,000	
Mānoa	Waikīkī Aquarium Upgrades	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000
Mānoa	Coconut Island Sewer Line Upgrades	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Mānoa	Holmes Hall	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Mānoa	Assessment and Feasibility of Hamilton Library	\$ 6,500,000	
Mānoa	Mini Master Plan, Phase 3 - Kuykendall Hall	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Mānoa	Central Administration Facility with Parking	\$ 8,000,000	
Mānoa	Waikīkī Aquarium Seawall Repairs	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Mānoa	JABSOM Roof Replacement	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,250,000
Hilo	RIM Projects	\$ 7,300,000	\$ 7,300,000
West O’ahu	RIM Projects	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
West O’ahu	Road B Entry Plaza	\$ 5,200,000	
West O’ahu	PV Carport	\$ 5,000,000	
Total		\$ 331,500,000	\$ 66,550,000

Renew, Improve, and Modernize (“RIM”) Projects are the UH’s top priority, as these funds help to address the UH’s deferred maintenance backlog. The University also respectfully requests the inclusion of additional funds to address the needs of students housing. The other projects in this list help to protect health and safety, protect and maintain existing infrastructure and system investments, and support current and funded research activity.

We look forward to working with the Legislature throughout this Session and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1800. This bill amends Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 and other appropriations and makes additional appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025. The Department supports this bill.

We respectfully request that budget items that are in the Executive Budget request be considered for this bill. Operating requests include the conversion of positions in the Quality Assurance Division from revolving to general funds, providing funding for unfunded positions and funds for the Da Bux and Farm to Foodbank programs.

Important capital improvement program requests include funds for the State Irrigation System Reservoir Safety Improvements, Kahuku Agricultural Park Improvements, and Molokai Irrigation System Improvements.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 1800, which provides the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (“HGIA”) (BED 138) the ability to administer its financing programs for underserved ratepayers, as well as bridge the access to capital gap for nonprofits, small businesses and commercial property owners statewide. In addition to the authority’s lending ceiling, bond ceiling and operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, we are also requesting three **special and federally** funded positions to administer the Federally funded SSBCI HI-CAP programs and C-PACER financing program mandated by Act 183, SLH 2022.

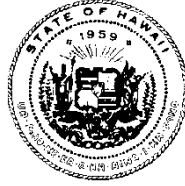
The Authority is expecting an award between \$25.0 million to \$100.0 million from the EPA under its Solar For All program. This program requires a dedicated community outreach officer. Additionally, with over \$300.0 million of special and federal funds under HGIA’s management, a fiscal and compliance position is required to ensure the Authority remains compliant with funding guidance and requirements.

Lastly, the Authority is working on an application due April 1st to lead a 15-state coalition for some \$500.0 million under the EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant program.

With over 900 loan applications currently in process and only five authorized FTE, the additional staff requested is not only critical to ensure timely processing, approval and funding of loans, but to also retain staff and avoid employee burn-out.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1800.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

10:00 AM, March 6, 2024
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1800, relating to the State Budget.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **strong support** of HB 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The HPHA's mission is to provide Hawaii's residents with adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and suitable living environments that are free from discrimination through both its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves our state's most disadvantaged populations, including families earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income, the disabled, and the elderly.

HMS 220 – Rental Housing Services (Public Housing)

Request ID	220RH-51 (companion to 229HA-52)
Description of Request	Request to transfer, convert MOF, and redescribe FTE 13.00 permanent positions and funds from HMS 229 to HMS 220, 1.00 MOF A, 9.00 MOF N, and 3.00 MOF W. MOF A trade-off with Other Personal Services (FTE Perm 1.00/A, - \$65,518/A, \$65,518/A; 9.00/N, \$847,818/N; 3.00/W, \$320,990/W).
Reasons for Request	These positions are needed at the Asset Management Projects.

Request ID	220RH-52
Description of Request	Request FTE 3.00 permanent Housing Specialist II positions (FTE Perm 1.00/A, \$56,690/A; FTE Perm 2.00/N, \$182,909/N).
Reasons for Request	<p>The HPHA is in need of additional Public Housing Specialist (PHS) positions to serve and address management and residents’ needs. The three (3) PHS positions will be assigned to the Asset Management Projects (AMP) listed below.</p> <p>AMP 31 consists of one (1) federal low-income public housing property (Kalihi Valley Homes) and five (5) state low-income public housing properties (Hauiki Homes, Puahala Homes I, II, III, IV) with a combined total of five-hundred and seventy (570) public housing units. With only two (2) PHS positions available to service management and tenants, the A funded PHS position will be able to spread out the existing workload more evenly with a focus on the one-hundred and seventy-four (174) state low-income public housing families. Please know that there are currently no A funded PHS positions to service any state low-income public housing properties.</p> <p>AMP 34 consists of three (3) federal low-income public housing properties (Kalakaua Homes, Makua Alii, and Paoakalani) with a combined total of five-hundred and eighty-three (583) public housing units. With only two (2) PHS positions available to service management tenants, the N funded PHS position will be able to spread out the existing workload more evenly. Please know that these properties primarily service the elderly and non-elderly disabled tenants that have mental and physical disabilities and require additional attention and assistance.</p>

	AMP 39 consists of six (4) federal low-income public housing properties (Kahekili Terrace, Makani Kai Hale I & II, and Kahale Mua federal) and one (1) state low-income public housing property (Kahale Mua state) with a combined total of one-hundred and sixty-eight (168) public housing units. While the tragic wildfire disaster that destroyed Piilani Homes and David Malo Circle in Lahaina has reduced the total amount of public housing units by sixty (60) units, the N funded PHS position will be able to assist the public housing tenants on the island of Molokai as well as the island of Maui. Travel time to and from the island of Molokai puts additional strain on the HPHA’s Maui Office staff and the N funded PHS position will be able to spread out the existing workload more evenly.
--	---

Request ID	220RH-53
Description of Request	Request to convert funding of FTE 3.00 permanent Building Maintenance Worker I positions from MOF W to MOF A, MOF A trade-off with Other Personal Services (FTE Perm 3.00/A, - \$205,338/A, \$205,338/A; -3.00/W, -\$257,469/W).
Reasons for Request	These positions are needed at the Asset Management Projects.

Request ID	220RH-BF (companion to 229HA-BF)
Description of Request	Request to transfer in FTE 3.00 permanent Building Maintenance Worker Is from HMS 229 (FTE Perm 3.00/W, \$257,469/W).
Reasons for Request	These positions are needed at the Asset Management Projects.

Request ID	220RH-FF
Description of Request	Request to increase federal fund ceiling (\$7,540,597/N).
Reasons for Request	Additional federal funds are expected next year.

Request ID	H25011
Description of Request	School Street Development of Elderly Housing, Oahu (\$22,000,000/C). Predevelopment Planning for all Projects to Include Architectural and Engineering Activities Including Obtaining Permits, Drafting Blueprints and Plans, Creating Specifications, Conducting Inspections, Surveys and Environmental Studies, Interacting with

	Banks, and other Financial Institutions to Arrange Financing (but not entering into contracts) for Hawaii Public Housing Authority Projects Identified or Scheduled for Redevelopment (\$22,000,000/P).																		
Reasons for Request	<p>This request amends the HPHA’s initial request included in the Governor’s budget request H25011 related to the additional funding needed to move forward with Phase I of HPHA’s School Street Senior Affordable Rental Housing Project; amends the project title, the work to be done, and the cost element. However, the amount of general obligation bond funds requested remains the same as our initial request.</p> <p>Please note that the initial request was drafted before the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors voted on January 11, 2024, to recommend providing the HPHA with the additional funding needed to proceed.</p> <p>Predevelopment planning for all projects will include, but not be limited to architectural and engineering activities including obtaining permits, drafting blueprints and plans, creating specifications, conducting inspections, surveys, environmental studies, and contaminated soil remediation, and interacting with banks and other financial institutions to arrange financing (but not entering into contracts). The distribution of the funds can be found in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Predevelopment Ka Lei Momi / School Street.</th> <th>Funds Needed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kapa’a Homes</td> <td>\$4,400,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lanakila Homes</td> <td>\$4,100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maui Replacement Housing</td> <td>\$4,150,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Street Phase II</td> <td>\$500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kaahumanu Homes or Puuwai Momi</td> <td>\$5,200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mayor Wright Homes – Phase 1C</td> <td>\$3,650,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Predevelopment Funds Needed</td> <td>\$22,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Predevelopment Ka Lei Momi / School Street.	Funds Needed	Kapa’a Homes	\$4,400,000	Lanakila Homes	\$4,100,000	Maui Replacement Housing	\$4,150,000	School Street Phase II	\$500,000	Kaahumanu Homes or Puuwai Momi	\$5,200,000	Mayor Wright Homes – Phase 1C	\$3,650,000			Total Predevelopment Funds Needed	\$22,000,000
Predevelopment Ka Lei Momi / School Street.	Funds Needed																		
Kapa’a Homes	\$4,400,000																		
Lanakila Homes	\$4,100,000																		
Maui Replacement Housing	\$4,150,000																		
School Street Phase II	\$500,000																		
Kaahumanu Homes or Puuwai Momi	\$5,200,000																		
Mayor Wright Homes – Phase 1C	\$3,650,000																		
Total Predevelopment Funds Needed	\$22,000,000																		

Request ID	H25003
Description of Request	HPHA Lumpsum, Site and Building Improvements and Health and Safety Improvements, Statewide (\$10,000,000/C).
Reasons for Request	Funding needed to protect the assets and residents of HPHA. Both federal and state public housing programs are historically

	<p>underfunded. Many buildings are in need of major repairs and renovation, while some dwelling units have been rendered completely uninhabitable. HPHA will use this funding to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve the health and safety of the housing provided to existing residents; b. Protect the physical assets of HPHA’s public housing inventory from further deterioration, thereby reducing future expenditures on rehabilitation or new construction; c. Ensure compliance with federal property requirements and condition standards; and d. Beautify the neighborhoods where public housing is located.
--	--

HMS 222 – Rental Assistance Services (Section 8)

Request ID	222RA-51
Description of Request	Request additional general funds for the State Rent Supplement Program (\$400,000/A)
Reasons for Request	Requested funding will enable the HPHA to fund all State Rent Supplement Program participants at the currently authorized rental assistance rate.

Request ID	222RA-FF
Description of Request	Request to increase federal fund ceiling (\$4,797,969/N).
Reasons for Request	Additional federal funds are expected next year.

HMS 229 – HPHA Administration

Request ID	229HA-51
Description of Request	Request to convert MOF and redescribe FTE 1.00 position, from temporary to permanent and from MOF N to MOF W (FTE Temp - 1.00/N, -\$111,162/N; Perm 1.00/W, \$119,970/W).
Reasons for Request	For the past several years, it has been difficult to fill temporary civil service positions while competing against the permanent civil positions in recruitment at other State departments.

Request ID	229HA-52 (Companion to 220RH-51)
Description of Request	Request to transfer out FTE 13.00 permanent positions from HMS 229 to HMS 220, 8.00 MOF N funded positions and 5.00 MOF W funded positions (FTE Perm -8.00/N, -\$668,588/N; -5.00/W, -\$409,737/W).
Reasons for Request	These positions are needed at the Asset Management Projects.

Request ID	229HA-53
Description of Request	Request FTE 2.00 temporary MOF W funded positions and FTE 2.00 permanent MOF N funded positions (FTE Perm 2.00/N, \$158,306/N; FTE Temp 2.00/W, \$350,845/W).
Reasons for Request	The two (2) Housing Development Specialist positions are needed to assist in all phases of housing development, and they will need two (2) Public Housing Specialist I positions for housing development support. These positions will assist in the Ka Lei Momi, KPT and SSEAHP redevelopment projects in the preparation of feasibility studies for the sites, master plan preparation, processing the required governmental applications and permits, construction of housing units, and coordination with Property Management and Maintenance Services Branch and Office of the Executive Director.

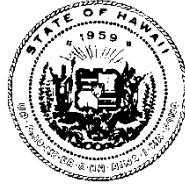
Request ID	229HA-54
Description of Request	Request to convert FTE 1.00 temporary position to permanent position and funds for federal salary adjustment and equipment (FTE Temp -1.00/N; Perm 1.00/N, \$14,433/N).
Reasons for Request	For the past several years, it has been difficult to fill temporary Civil Service positions while competing against the permanent Civil Service positions in recruitment from other state departments.

Request ID	229HA-BF (companion to 220RH-BF)
Description of Request	Request to transfer out FTE 3.00 permanent Building Maintenance Worker Is to HMS 220 (FTE Perm -3.00/W, -\$257,469/W).
Reasons for Request	These positions are needed at the Asset Management Projects.

The HPHA is aware of the many competing priorities in need of additional support during these trying times. The HPHA humbly requests that this funding and positions be made available to help provide safe and decent housing to our community's lowest-income families.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 06, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
H.B. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** and requests **amendments** to HB 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2023 to 2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

There are existing appropriations of \$50 million to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF) and \$180 million to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) in the Fiscal Year 2024 to 2025 budget, and this bill changes the means of financing for both from general funds to general obligation bond funds. HHFDC appreciates the Legislature's continued support for these appropriations.

\$50,000,000 (MOF: C) for BED 160 Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Infusion, Statewide

DURF may be used for the acquisition of real property; development and construction of residential, commercial, and industrial properties; interim and permanent loans to developers; development of regional infrastructure; and all things necessary to carry out the purposes of HHFDC's Housing Development Program, including administrative expenses.

Among other uses, the \$50 million infusion is needed for the development of infrastructure to support temporary and permanent housing on Maui in response to the August 2023 wildfires disaster.

\$180,000,000 (MOF: C) for BED 160 Cash Infusion for Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Statewide

RHRF provides loans or grants for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of rental housing units. The state has a severe shortage of housing, and the \$180 million infusion is needed to continue to provide gap financing for the development of affordable rental housing projects. To illustrate the demand for such financing, for the 2024 funding round, HHFDC received 25 RHRF applications for loans totaling \$616 million to finance a total of 3,477 units.

Requested Amendment

HHFDC has a pivotal role in the recovery efforts on Maui and in providing temporary and permanent housing/infrastructure solutions statewide, including single-family financing housing programs and other programs delegated to HHFDC under the Governor's emergency housing proclamation. To execute these plans, HHFDC needs to retain staff, fill vacant positions, and add staff.

We request that this bill be amended to increase appropriations from HHFDC's revolving funds by \$2,000,819, including three (3) new positions:

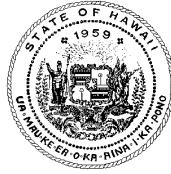
1. Add 1.0 FTE Temporary Finance Specialist I position;
2. Add 1.0 FTE Temporary Project Manager III position; and
3. Add 1.0 FTE Temporary Housing Compliance Manager position.

These amendments will not require a general fund or general obligation bond fund appropriation. The operating expense ceiling increase will be funded from HHFDC's revolving funds, such as DURF and HFRF (Housing Finance Revolving Fund).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

RYAN YAMANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the members of the committee

The purpose of House Bill 1800 (HB1800) is to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement program projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. This bill amends Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) strongly **supports** HB1800 as it relates to our five biennium budget requests.

1. HRD102 – Addition of \$79,896 in FY 2025 for full-year funding of two positions in the Classification Branch. Act 243, SLH 2022, authorized two half-year funded permanent Human Resources Specialist (HRS) V positions. The positions received \$74,976 of non-recurring funds in FY 2024 to cover the second half of the FY 2024's salary in Act 164, SLH 2023. As these positions were filled in January 2023, DHRD is requesting funding to continue the critical work of the Classification Branch.
2. HRD102 – Addition of \$33,900 in FY 2025 to fully fund an HRS V position transferred from HSPLS to manage their workers' compensation claims. Act 146, SLH 2023, transferred approximately \$37,116 from HSPLS to DHRD's base budget to partially fund 1.0 permanent HRS V position. DHRD is requesting to sufficiently fund this permanent position beyond the FY 2024 period. The \$33,900 request together with the \$37,116 in existing funding would provide \$71,016 in funding for the position.

3. HRD102 – Addition of 5.00 permanent positions and \$730,080 in FY 2025 for the Employee Staffing Division and increased recruitment efforts. It is essential for DHRD to have adequate levels of staffing to administer the State’s recruitment process. We anticipate the 5.00 HRS V positions will be used to increase DHRD’s capacity to more timely screen applicants. The \$730,080 is comprised of \$355,080 in funding for the 5.00 positions and \$375,000 in recruitment advertising, marketing and promotion funds.
4. HRD102 – Addition of 1.00 permanent position and \$71,016 in FY 2025 for the employee benefits and telework programs. Fulfilling this request will provide the Employee Assistance Office (EAO) with the resources to advise departments on the telework program guidelines and best practices, and to collect data to facilitate implementation. It will also provide the EAO with the necessary staff resources to ensure the current pre-tax benefit programs function smoothly and in compliance with federal and state laws, rules and regulations.
5. HRD191 – Addition of \$25,000 for DHRD employee training and memberships. Funding will support our employees with professional development and training opportunities, and membership dues for human resources professional organizations. These funds will support a pressing need to maintain expertise as the state’s authority in human resources and the expansion of DHRD’s capabilities and expertise.

The Department is also requesting the deletion of 2.00 unfunded positions from HRD191.

We appreciate the Legislature’s further consideration to sufficiently fund our supplemental budget requests. We are aware of the challenges ahead and remain committed to work with the Legislature to seek solutions that effectively balance short and long-term priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support with Requested Amendments to House Bill 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Edward N. Chu

President and Chief Executive Officer

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **support with requested amendments to H.B. 1800** that adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) plays a vital role in the healthcare delivery system for the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2023, HHSC's acute discharges for the four HHSC regions were 13,278, which accounts for approximately 12% of all acute care discharges in the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2023, HHSC's emergency department visits for the four HHSC regions were 87,879, representing approximately 18.3% of all emergency department visits statewide.

The impact of HHSC's facilities on the neighbor islands is even more impressive.

- For residents of the County of Hawaii, HHSC's facilities cared for over 70% of all acute care discharges and 81% of all emergency department visits.
- For residents of the County of Kauai, HHSC's facilities cared for approximately 22.5% of all acute care discharges and 38.7% of all emergency department visits.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

Healthcare Landscape

Healthcare today is a very complex, highly regulated, and rapidly changing business with constant pressure from payors to deliver higher quality care at a lower cost. Development of health information technology, physician networks, quality improvement, and expertise in healthcare compliance rules and regulations and the revenue cycle is essential for successful hospital operations. Private hospitals have invested substantially in these areas while HHSC, with limited resources, is challenged to keep pace.

Historical Challenges

HHSC's facilities face challenges such as:

- Large percentage of Medicaid/QUEST and uninsured patients.
- Inadequate government and third-party reimbursements for healthcare services.
- Labor costs well above industry norms.
- Difficulty in attracting and retaining specialized health sector workforce in rural communities due to cost of living and lack of education and training opportunities.
- High cost contracted nursing and other clinical personnel to meet staffing shortages.
- Small scale operations which are costly to maintain.
- The need for capital investment in new medical technology.
- Aging facilities, with life and safety code issues and deferred maintenance, well beyond the average for similar facilities across the country.
- The impact of national changes to healthcare policy, federal mandates, and federal budget reductions.

Accomplishments

In spite of its many challenges, HHSC continues to provide high quality healthcare to the island communities it serves and is making progress in key areas. The following are some of the major accomplishments over the past year:

- **Commitment to Providing Quality Care:**
 - Hilo Medical Center, Leahi Hospital, Maluhia, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital achieved the highest possible overall five-star rating from Medicare's Nursing Home Compare website. Hale Ho'ola Hamakua and Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital received an overall four-star rating.
 - Hilo Medical Center achieved an overall four-star rating from Medicare's Hospital Compare website.
- **Focus on Growing Revenue:** Despite the challenges of staffing shortages and increased operational costs, HHSC managed to increase its operating revenues for fiscal year 2023 approximately 11.6% from fiscal year 2022 and 28.6% from fiscal year 2021. Two primary drivers of this revenue growth are:
 - **Achieving Equity with Hawaii Private Hospitals in Commercial Contract Negotiations:** Utilizing the resources of a consulting firm and published payment rates available as a result of federal price transparency legislation,

HHSC negotiated contracts for its commercial lines of business with its largest commercial payors that will bring HHSC's reimbursement rates for healthcare services up to par with those of the private hospitals in the State of Hawaii. This has been a large part of HHSC's revenue growth in fiscal year 2023, and will continue into the future as new contracts are negotiated.

- Focus on Revenue-Generating Services that Improve Services to the Community: Both Hilo Medical Center and Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital (KVMH) have established retail pharmacies that provide retail and specialty drugs to the community, and allow hospital inpatients to receive their prescribed medications upon discharge without having to go to another location to fill those prescriptions. HHSC's facilities have also developed other revenue generating services such as cardiology services at Hilo Medical Center and the expansion of specialty care services at KVMH such as urology, podiatry, and gastroenterology services.
- Establishment of Professional Provider Organizations: HHSC's regions have established not-for-profit professional provider organizations for its physician and clinic operations to allow for more efficient delivery of those types of services to the communities where they operate.
- Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities: HHSC's East Hawaii and Kauai Regions have converted several of their outpatient clinics to rural health clinics to achieve enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for those services. HHSC has also received over \$1 million from the Federal Communications Commission in Coronavirus Telehealth Grants to update aging telecommunications equipment and upgrade its network infrastructure. HHSC also worked with the State of Hawaii MedQUEST Division to establish a public hospital uncompensated care pool which provides federal funds to partially subsidize HHSC's losses from providing care to Medicaid, MedQUEST, and uninsured patients. In fiscal year 2023, HHSC received over \$60 million in funds from this program.
- Seeking Philanthropy: HHSC's facilities have always worked with their associated foundations to provide funding for medical equipment and other needed items for the facilities. Recently, HHSC's Hawaii Island facilities have received two very large unrestricted contributions from private donors.
- Collaborating with Other Private Hospitals on Services: HHSC's West Hawaii Region entered into an agreement with Queens Health Systems to implement the EPIC electronic medical records system at Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital, which went live on June 1, 2023. Once West Hawaii Region has optimized the EPIC system, it is expected to greatly improve the efficiency of operations, coordination of care with other private hospitals in the State of Hawaii, and improve charge capture. Kauai Region is also in a partnership with Hawaii Pacific Health Wilcox Hospital to establish island-wide radiologist coverage for the three hospitals on the island of Kauai.

HHSC BUDGET REQUEST

HHSC-Regions Fiscal Year 2025 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 210 & 212)

Please note that the funding amounts and requests under HTH 212 do not include the Oahu Region of HHSC, as Act 248, SLH 2022, established a new organization code for the HHSC-Oahu Region (HTH 215). As a result, HTH 212 (HHSC-Regions) is now comprised of the HHSC East Hawaii, West Hawaii, and Kauai Regions.

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total funding requested by HHSC for fiscal year 2025, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2025 are summarized below.

HTH 210, 212: HHSC REGIONS, CORPORATE OFFICE				
Funding Type	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2024	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2025	HHSC Supplemental FY 25 Request	FY 2025 Gov Rec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	160,286,303	160,286,303	-	-
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	25,947,000	13,500,000	31,300,000	25,500,000
General Funds	64,300,000	15,500,000	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	90,247,000	29,000,000	31,300,000	25,500,000

Oahu Region Fiscal Year 2025 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 215)

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total funding requested by HHSC-Oahu Region for fiscal year 2025, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal years 2025 are summarized below.

HTH 215: OAHU REGION				
Funding Type	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2024	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2025	Oahu Region Supplemental FY 25 Request	FY 2025 Gov Rec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	20,189,000	23,372,000	-	-
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	2,000,000	500,000	6,200,000	-
General Funds	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	5,000,000	3,500,000	6,200,000	-

Kahuku Medical Center Fiscal Year 2025 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 211)

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total funding requested by Kahuku Medical Center for fiscal year 2025, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2025 are summarized below.

HTH 211: KAHUKU MEDICAL CENTER				
Funding Type	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2024	Act 164 SLH 2023 FY 2025	KMC Supplemental FY 25 Request	FY 2025 Gov Rec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,427,720	232,500
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	-	-	5,000,000	1,500,000
General Funds	1,000,000	5,000,000	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	1,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	1,500,000

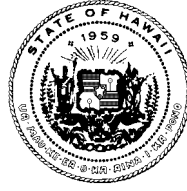
This testimony addresses only the amounts that would go to HTH 210, HTH 211, HTH 212, and HTH 215. We expect Maui Health Systems (HTH 214) to provide their own testimony in support of the amounts appropriated for those entities in this bill.

CONCLUSION

Despite our progress in financial and operational performance as indicated under “Accomplishments” above, HHSC still struggles to generate sufficient revenues to keep up with unfunded mandates such as State of Hawaii collective bargaining pay raises and fringe benefit rate increases. Based on its current budget projections, HHSC is projected to end fiscal year 2025 with only 34 days cash on hand (the equivalent of living paycheck-to-paycheck) with the funding levels provided in Act 164, S.L.H. 2023. **As a result, HHSC is respectfully requesting approval to maintain the general fund appropriation levels contained in Act 164, S.L.H. 2023 for HTH 210, 212, and 215 for fiscal year 2025, and is requesting a modest increase of \$232,500 in general fund appropriations to Kahuku Medical Center (HTH 211) for fiscal year 2025. HHSC also has several CIP requests for HTH 212, HTH 211, and HTH 215, the details of which we have provided to the staff of the House Committee on Finance.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure **in support with requested amendments.**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1800](#) – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Hearing: March 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the executive budget and requests consideration of DHS budget adjustments. In addition to our SFY 2025 budget narrative, we include appendices:

- 1) DHS Key Performance Indicators,
- 2) DHS Maui & Hawaii Island Wildfires Frequently Asked Questions (updated as of 12/4/23), and
- 3) Analysis of the Impact of Proposed Budget Reductions for SFY2025.

Given the tremendous immediate and long-term impact of the Maui Wildfire response, DHS respectfully requests the Committee contemplate the vital services DHS provides Hawaii's residents. DHS staff and programs need sufficient resources to continue to serve all of Hawaii's residents timely and efficiently and to avoid delays in accessing benefits and services.

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for supplemental fiscal year 2025.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is a significant part of the State's safety net, providing vital benefits and services to 1 in 3 Hawaii residents. DHS is guided by:

- Article IX, Section Three of the Hawai'i State Constitution regarding public assistance,

- Section 5-7.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the "Aloha Spirit" statute, and
- Section 26-14, HRS, codifying 'Ohana Nui, DHS' multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidences of poverty and to end poverty.

Our budget priorities in this supplemental year include:

- Implementing the State's Disaster Case Management (DCMP) grant program to support an equitable recovery for all Maui residents impacted by the fires,
- Funding a rate increase for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to keep kupuna and people with disabilities in the community and avoid having to move them to significantly more expensive nursing facilities,
- A CIP request to continue our IT modernization projects to improve our systems of delivery of human services and support a flexible and agile work environment, and
- Ensuring our contracted providers and community-based partners are adequately compensated for the work they do alongside the department.

Notably, these general fund appropriations will support the implementation of federally funded programs, and allow access to matching funds or assist with claiming for federal reimbursement. Significantly, with this budget, DHS has the potential to access an increase of more than \$217M in federal funds over the biennium budget.¹

Other general fund requests include funds for a 20% increase in homeless programs and funds for youth mental health services. These increases reflect the increased demand and costs of services.

The budget also includes housekeeping requests to align positions organizationally. From SFY22 through SFY24, year-to-date, DHS Budget, Planning & Management Office (BPMO) and programs completed 11 internal reorganizations that aim to make the department more efficient and correctly resourced. DHS is diligently addressing the need to update position functions and organizational structures to enable our business units to be able to address challenges such as the Maui Wildfires.

Requests for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) include requests for IT modernization of the Child Welfare Services Branch system of record and improvements to air conditioning and power generators at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities.

¹ DHS strategizes to maximize available federal funds. The various federally funded or split-funded benefit programs often provide federal matching funds for operations, including personnel costs, or use a reimbursement model where the State upfronts 100% of the expenditures and then seeks federal reimbursement for a percentage of the expenditures.

We recognize that revenues are limited and the priority of this session is the Maui Wildfires recovery efforts. However, we must continue to address wage gaps that human services workers face, have the resources to be innovative, and have the flexibility to recruit, train, and support the professional development of the current and future human services workforce.

In 2023, we had more than 30 retirements that cumulatively equaled centuries of knowledge and public service to the State. We need to find ways to improve the transfer of knowledge and include succession plans that include career and leadership development and make the department more resilient. We recently started a new training called Innovative Supervisors - which aims to develop managers and supervisors. Additionally, we have partnered with One Shared Future to complete a strengths-based management and supervisory training, and worked with a retired Judge to teach managers and supervisors coaching strategies.

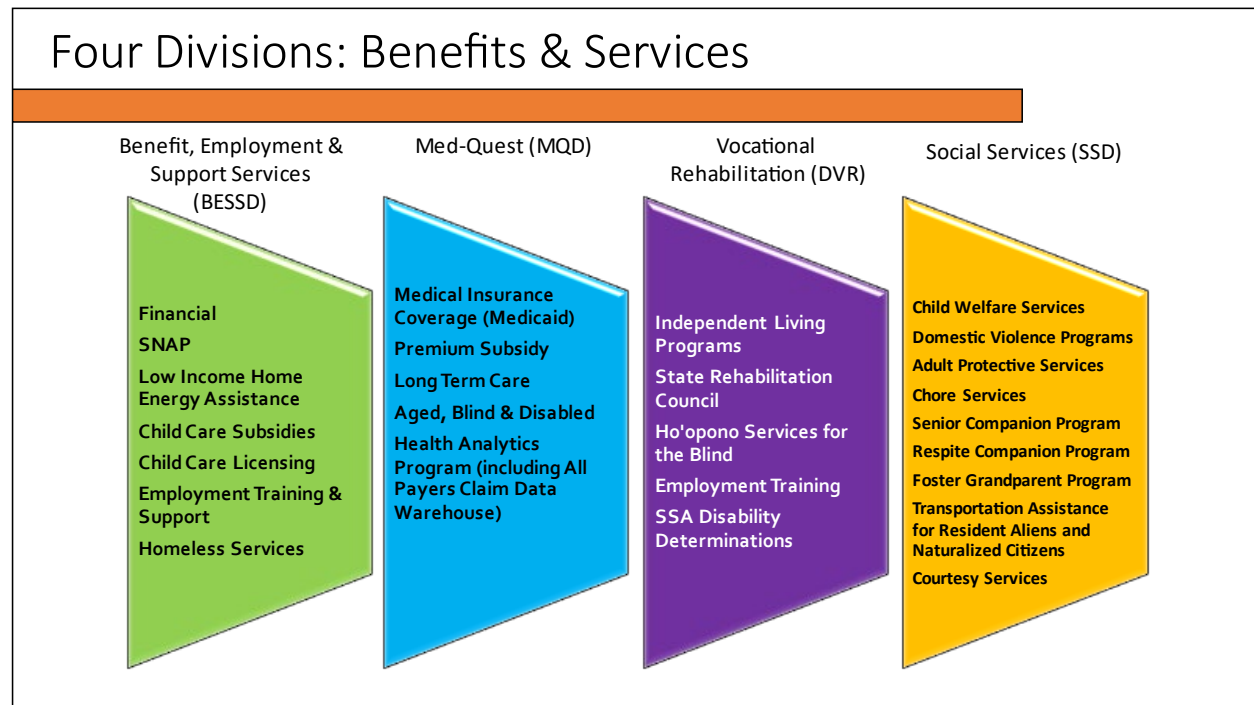
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, volcano, floods, and now in response to the Maui Wildfires, DHS staff pivoted to a hybrid environment, increased online access, established call centers, requested program waivers, absorbed volumes of information, collaborated with many partners, and stood up programs to support Hawaii's residents through rough times. Our staff are our greatest resource, and we have to continue to invest in their well-being.

This past year, DHS explored innovative methods to improve workforce retention, including increased wellness programs throughout DHS, continued executive coaching, participation in One Shared Future, offering new wellness programs for divisions, participation in Blue Zones, comprehensive and intentional onboarding, participating in job fairs at high schools and colleges, producing PSAs for the Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) including links to applications and information about CWS, actively working with the Office of Wellness and Resilience on addressing staff burnout including participation in the 24-hour drop-in mental health zoom rooms following the Maui Wildfires.

We recognize that across the nation, high vacancy rates among human-serving systems are a significant problem. As we work with national organizations to examine hiring and retention issues, it is clear there is a systemic wage gap for human services professionals. Notably, nearly 60% of our workforce are individuals who identify as female and 40% who identify as male. Human services staff provide support and essential services to the people they serve with purpose and commitment in the face of unprecedented crises. We hope to continue to work with the Legislature to ensure human services employment is gainful, economically sustainable, and dignified work.

DHS provides benefits and services with the following organizational structure (as illustrated above):

- Four Divisions: Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), Social Services Division (SSD);
- Three attached agencies: the Office of Youth Services (OYS), which includes the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), the Hawai'i Public Housing Agency (HPHA), and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS);²
- Four attached commissions and two councils: the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW), the Commission on Fatherhood (COF), the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (HSLGBTQ+), the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH);
- Six staff offices that provide services to all divisions, attached agencies, and commissions: Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), Audit, Quality Control & Research Office (AQCRO), Budget, Planning, & Management Office (BPMO), Fiscal Management Office (FMO), Human Resources (HR), and Office of Information Technology (OIT); and
- The Director's Office.



Ver.2023

With nearly 1,645 staff members in more than 80 offices state-wide, DHS manages an annual budget of over \$4.2 billion, of which more than 64% are federal funds. Notably, DHS distributes a vast majority of federal funds as benefits or services and can also access federal matching

²Per Act 87, SLH 2023, On July 1, 2025, the Office of Wellness & Resilience will become an attached agency of DHS.

funds or seek federal reimbursement to pay for staff salaries and operations. To continue to serve Hawaii's residents efficiently and effectively, we have the following strategic goals:

Goal 1: Improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's individuals and families.

DHS provides benefits and services to vulnerable individuals and families by assisting them with financial assistance and nutrition assistance, securing gainful employment toward economic self-sufficiency, supporting early childhood development and school readiness, providing access to health care, intervention, and prevention services that address abuse and neglect, and increasing housing stability.

Goal 2: Improve service integration and delivery to develop solutions for sustainable outcomes.

DHS programs and benefits support Hawaii's individuals, families, and communities, contribute to our local economy, and establish Hawai'i DHS as a national human service delivery leader. We are transforming our policies, processes, and systems to improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's individuals and families. We aim to serve residents across programs and divisions with integrated eligibility and case management applications and a vision for the future that connects residents quickly to available resources.

- (1) Modernizing the DHS IT infrastructure,
- (2) Implementing our multigenerational 'Ohana Nui framework to end intergenerational poverty, and
- (3) Developing and implementing the department's strategic plan and performance measures. See the DHS Key Performance Metrics (KPI) in Appendix 1.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, DHS staff pivoted rapidly to a hybrid work environment while maintaining and increasing safe access to benefits and services. Experienced and innovative leadership and dedicated staff executed the many pandemic programs and programmatic changes built on skills gained through our ongoing business processes and IT modernization efforts. IT investments during the pandemic continued to build on organizational changes DHS began when implementing the Affordable Care Act. With improved technology, staff are more able to provide services statewide and are not geographically limited to process work on their home island. Continuing to improve our IT infrastructure, DHS is able to offer telework options as a recruitment and retention strategy. Supervisors and administrators are better able to redirect human resources when necessary.

During 2023, we continued to support residents as DHS began to "unwind" federal pandemic program waivers and additional benefits and moved back to pre-pandemic eligibility determination processes. However, the August 8 wildfires demanded that

DHS shift our collective attention, efforts, and resources to respond to the immediate needs of residents and providers impacted by the fires. Now in the recovery phase, DHS is leading the State's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) and has several programs designed to assist Hawaii residents who are not eligible for federal disaster assistance. See Appendix 2, DHS Maui & Hawaii Island Wildfire Frequently Asked Questions (updated as of 12/4/23).

Goal 3: Improve staff health and development.

Like many human services agencies across the country, DHS faces high vacancy rates (31%, (as of 12/31/23) as higher-paying private and public sector jobs attract the available workforce. Findings from a recent wage equity study from the University of Washington School of Social Work found that:

- 1) "human services workers are systematically paid less than workers in non-care industries, with estimated pay gaps of 30% or more across different econometric models[,] and
- 2) "human services workers are paid less than workers in other industries or sectors whose tasks are rated as comparable through a systematic job evaluation process."³

As such, in addition to continuing investment in the health and well-being of the DHS workforce and IT modernization that supports a flexible work environment to retain and attract workers to fulfill these demanding yet critical services for Hawaii's residents, we need to engage in a broad cross-sector dialogue to encourage and support human services workers.

Before the pandemic, we provided staff time and opportunity to engage in mindfulness and other stress management courses. Throughout the pandemic, staff engaged in additional webinars and resources to address the stressors of working from home, withstanding a global pandemic, and caring for children and older relatives. By promoting our DHS workforce's health, well-being, professional development, and cross-sector collaboration projects, we are better prepared to support each other and the individuals and families we serve.

However, we are concerned that an understaffed environment increases workplace stress and impacts morale. To sustain our staff, workload, and compliance requirements, we need to find more flexible ways to retool, reduce the pressure, and continue to support individual needs to maintain our staff's health and mental health.

³ See, <https://socialwork.uw.edu/wageequitystudy>.

Most program areas will need to rely on a hybrid, flexible work environment and pay attention to the health and well-being of our workforce. DHS needs the legislature's continued support to maintain a high level of our "blue sky" operations even with high vacancy rates, meet existing staffing needs, increase appropriations for the purchase of service contracts, and continue IT infrastructure projects that improve access to benefits and services and provides staff with modern tools to complete their work.

The significant conditions impacting DHS operations and ability to meet all program goals are:

- High vacancy rates across the department,
- Human and fiscal resources needed to conduct the department's Maui Wildfires response and recovery lines of effort,
- Time and resources needed to "unwind" COVID-19 pandemic programming, and
- The consequences of Hawaii's high cost of living.

With low unemployment and better-paying opportunities in the private sector, DHS, like other human services agencies across the country, will continue to have difficulty filling positions until wages keep up with the private sector industries that demand similar skill sets. See the discussion above.

The "unwinding" from COVID-19 program rules requires the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) to redetermine eligibility for all Medicaid enrollees. During the Public Health Emergency (PHE) of COVID-19 from March 2020 – April 2023, all Medicaid members were protected from disenrollment. MQD began redeterminations in April 2023. However, following the August 8th wildfires, MQD paused that renewal process for three months (September, October, and November of 2023) to address the emerging and complex needs in Maui County. Additionally, the pause allowed MQD to incorporate additional eligibility flexibilities granted to Hawaii by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and enhance MQD's eligibility system to determine continued eligibility at a member level rather than a household level. Given the pause, Medicaid enrollment hit a new milestone of 477,276 at the end of January 2024. However, the enrollment numbers are starting to trend lower, and we anticipate the trend to continue to go down through the rest of this year.

As federal pandemic funds and programs are no longer cycling through the economy for rental assistance, rents remain high, and low-income housing inventory remains tight. We anticipate continued housing instability amongst Hawaii's low-income residents. We request a \$1.32M increase for homeless services providers to assist them with their costs as the demand for services increases. Homeless services contracts have not kept up with the increasing costs of doing business. When DHS contracted providers also struggle to hire staff, outreach, and linkages to other services are delayed.

Identified need: Dedicated Emergency Management Resources

The department's roles and responsibilities in back-to-back and continuing disasters require DHS to create special project positions, a permanent emergency management office, and a dedicated emergency management program administrator.

To add capacity to oversee the FEMA Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP), the DHS Director's Office created a special project to hire critical DCMP executive-level and administrative staff to oversee the DCMP.

For the 2024 session, the Director's office requests additional general fund appropriations to support the DCMP and expenditures that the FEMA DCMP grant award may not cover. A revised Form A will be submitted with a Governor's Message, as we prepared the initial Form A as FEMA was reviewing the DHS' DCMP grant application.

We submitted an administration bill authorizing DHS to provide disaster recovery services beyond an emergency proclamation for disaster survivors who may continue to need assistance. However, the bill did not make it past the first decking.

In response to the August 8, 2023 Wildfires, DHS has been active in the response and recovery periods. See Appendix 2, Maui & Big Island Wildfires Frequently Asked Questions, for detailed activities by program.

Currently, the significant lines of recovery efforts include:

- Ramping up and implementing the State's FEMA DCMP that builds upon the interim DCMP and will serve all Maui wildfire survivors irrespective of eligibility for FEMA or Small Business Administration (SBA) financial assistance,
- Implementing and overseeing the Maui Relief Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program with Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) and the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF),
- Working with ARC and community provider Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) to provide rental assistance to individuals not eligible for federal disaster assistance from FEMA or SBA,
- Continuing to support the Emergency Support Function #6 on mass care and feeding, and
- Leading the Social Services Recovery Support Function and participating in a variety of housing initiatives.

The complexity of the housing situation in Maui cannot be understated. DHS will work with the Governor's Office, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the County, FEMA, US Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and other state housing entities (Hawaii Housing Finance &

Development Corporation (HHFDC) and Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to work as fast as possible to increase access to affordable interim housing on Maui Island.

As of March 4, there remained 3,898 people in 13 Non Congregate Shelters run by the American Red Cross. The DCMP that DHS is leading is a long-term effort that will provide comprehensive case management services to all survivors regardless of whether they are eligible for federal financial disaster assistance or participating in the NCS program. The DCMP builds upon the relationships and work done in the immediate aftermath of the wildfires and the Interim DCMP funded by ARC.

Here are highlights of the DHS wildfire emergency response to date:

- On August 9, 2023, Governor Green immediately mobilized the DHS Director's Office to support the mass care of Maui residents and visitors impacted by the wildfires.
 - The Director's team and Maui-based DHS staff assisted survivors at the Maui War Memorial and other shelters.
 - DHS assisted with the transition into the ARC Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) program, and DHS was the lead on sheltering survivors with the State's Airbnb program.
 - As part of the overall emergency response, the Director's Office staff leads the State's Emergency Support Function #6 to facilitate mass care and feeding discussion amongst Federal, State, and County agencies and community providers.
 - The DHS Director's Office implemented communications, public outreach, and media disaster response. On August 9, 2023, DHS updated its website to include Wildfire response messaging. DHS Director's Office also created and distributed press releases and digital marketing materials to provide vital information to the public.
- In September 2023, DHS worked with the Department of Transportation, the Oregon Emergency Management Office (which assisted the State's response), and community provider Project Vision to set up Pu'uohonua o Nēnē, a temporary field shelter for up to 150 individuals who were not eligible to remain in the NCS program. This field shelter serves Maui residents who were experiencing homelessness prior to the wildfires and other Maui residents who needed a viable option for temporary shelter. This shelter option went live on September 29, 2023, at the end of FEMA's "safe harbor." As of March 3, 2024, Pu'uohonua o Nēnē is sheltering 119 individuals (36 pre-disaster homeless) and has assisted 271, including 16 veterans.
- The DHS Director's Office applied for the FEMA Disaster Case Management Program Grant (DCMP) on behalf of the State. DCMP will provide specially trained case managers to all willing survivors to help assess and address their immediate and long-term needs through a disaster recovery plan. DCMP will assist with referrals to available resources and services, decision-making priorities, guidance, and tools. The DCMP case managers will work with the newly organized community-based Long Term Recovery Group to

address individuals' unmet needs. DHS applied for and received the FEMA DCMP within 100 days – one of the fastest DCMP application-to-award process. The DCMP will help the State provide needed services to those impacted in developing recovery plans to recover, heal, and restore their lives. The DCMP will also increase community capacity and expertise to respond to future disasters.

- In November, to prepare DHS and the community to implement the FEMA DCMP, DHS and ARC set up a 90-day ARC-funded interim DCM program to begin training Maui-based disaster case managers with three community-based organizations while ironing out the details of the FEMA-funded program. The interim DCM program began working with clients on November 27, 2023.
- The DHS Director's Office also leads the State's Social Services Recovery Support Function (SSRSF). The SSRSF aims to restore and improve social services networks to promote the community's resilience, health, independence, and well-being pre- and post-disaster. The SSRSF implements the federal framework to support locally-led recovery efforts focused on human services, behavioral health, and education.
- BESSD worked with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) to enable a SNAP Hot Foods Waiver (extended five times, most recently until 3/14/24) so that recipients could purchase prepared meals with their SNAP benefits. BESSD and FNS recognized that many survivors did not have access to kitchens.
- BESSD worked to develop and distribute Disaster SNAP benefits for eligible survivors who do not receive regular SNAP.
- BESSD Child Care Programs Office (CCPO) expanded child care resources to families. The wildfires on Maui destroyed child care facilities and impacted 270 regulated child care seats. DHS child care program staff is working with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the County of Maui, and providers to find ways to restart child care for survivors, with attention to establishing available child care for DOE teachers and exploring venues at hotels and potentially parks.
- BESSD financial program staff worked with ACF to create the Maui Relief TANF Program that provides financial assistance to families with dependent children up to the age of 21 who are not otherwise eligible or receiving federal FEMA or SBA assistance. HCF contributed \$5M for residents not eligible for TANF and to ensure an equitable recovery. As of March 1, 2024, this program administered by MEO has issued \$5.37M in financial assistance to 905 households made up of 3,263 individuals. The highest expenditures are for mortgage and rent, though families report difficulty locating affordable rentals. The average household receives \$5,942. Notably, this program will likely tap into the State's TANF reserve.
- In December 2023, Governor Green tasked the DHS Director's Office with coming up with Housing solutions for residents who are not eligible for FEMA assistance. Two programs include:
 - The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) will provide up to \$17,500,000 in rental assistance to ensure that people transitioning out of the NCS program have a place to reside for at least 12 months. Since December 2023, and as of February

- 26, 2024, the contracted provider Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) placed 112 households, and 79 additional properties are in negotiations.
- The current plan for interim housing is to build 450 units on State HHFDC land at Leiali'i. The project is called Kala'iola, a place for peace recovery, and will utilize 72 of the 347-acre site for the 450 units. The 450 units are modular three-bedroom, two-bedroom, one-bedroom, and studios. The cost for the site construction will be approximately \$115,000,000 and require approximately \$5,000,000 per year to operate.
 - While DHS is leading these efforts, these programs will rely upon funds from the Major Disaster Fund.

Two New Opportunities: Summer-Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) & NGA Youth Mental Health Cohort

Federal and other opportunities continue our collaborative cross-sector efforts that build a better human services and social services system.

On January 1, 2024, the State provided its letter of intent to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service to participate in the Summer Electronic Benefits for Children Program (S-EBT). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328, authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer EBT beginning in 2024. S-EBT aims to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children who lose access to free and reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the summer when school is not in session. S-EBT will provide \$40 per eligible child per month.

To implement S-EBT, DHS is proposing an administrative measure, HB 2430 HD2, to make several statutory changes and includes a request for a preliminary appropriation for DHS administrative costs of approximately \$2,050,000 in general funds and \$2,050,000 in federal funds. The proposal includes a request for a program specialist position SR-24 to administer the new program and funds for DHS system modification and position. DOE is considering its resource needs to implement S-EBT. If the administration is able to implement a program in SFY 2024, the request for funding in SFY 2025 may change. In the next biennium, we anticipate a budget request to implement the program.

Building upon the experience gained during the pandemic, BESSD will begin work to plan for the implementation of the new S-EBT, including coordinating with the Department of Education (DOE). The new program requires a 50/50 state match for administrative costs, unlike P-EBT, which was entirely federally funded. This summer's program rules are more flexible to encourage state participation and to increase access to nutrition assistance.

During the pandemic, DHS and DOE collaborated with local and national partners to improve access to programs and benefits and to innovate solutions to pandemic challenges. For example, with the DOE and the Charter School Commission, Hawaii DHS was the first State

agency in federal Region IX to implement the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program that provided additional nutrition assistance to families with young and school-aged children. Hawaii's P-EBT program, initiated in the summer of 2020, paid \$328,604,880 in P-EBT nutrition assistance benefits and served 127,705 families, including 127,427 children.

In February, the National Governor's Association (NGA) selected Hawaii and five other states (Alabama, Kentucky, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Virginia) to participate in the NGA's Policy Academy to address the needs of Youth Mental Health and Well-being. The Hawaii Team includes members of the Governor's office, the Office of Wellness & Resilience, DHS, the Office of Youth Services, the Departments of Health and Education, the Executive Office on Early Learning, and community providers. This competitive proposal seeks assistance to improve navigation and access to existing mental health services and to look for models to grow and increase Hawaii's local mental health workforce.

Summaries by Division and the Office of Youth Services
Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD)

<u>PROCESSING CENTERS</u>	
Applications Received Daily	300
Applications Received Monthly	8,800
Eligibility Renewals Processed Monthly	7,100
Number of Calls Received Daily	1,850
Number of Calls Received Monthly	33,600

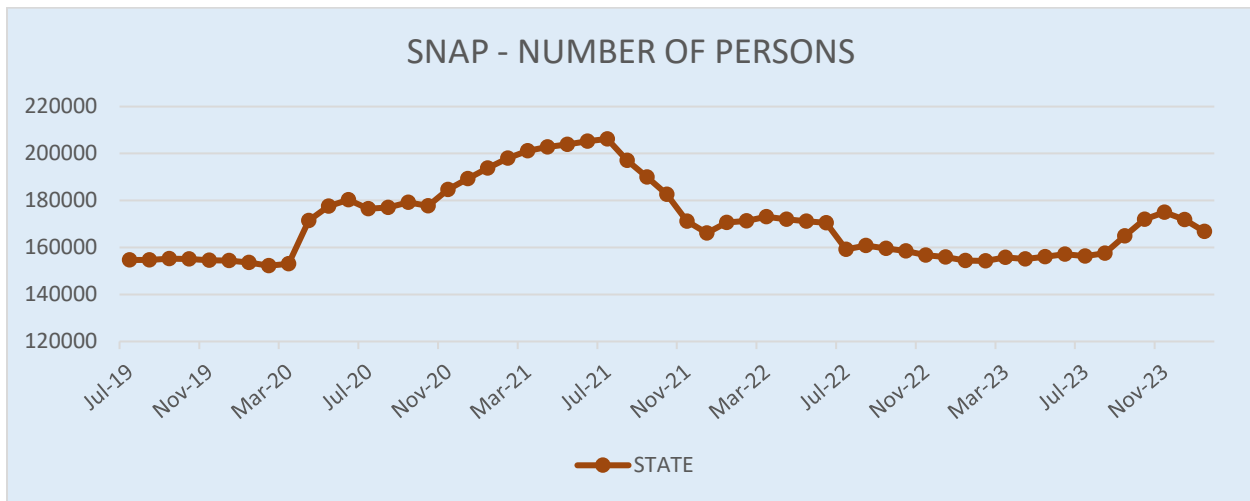
BESSD is experiencing high vacancies due to retirements, a lack of interested applicants, and opportunities for higher-wage jobs, making positions difficult to fill. The challenge of filling Eligibility Worker (EW) and Office Assistant (OA) positions is a national issue. We continue to process the work despite having only 75% of the optimal workforce of Eligibility Workers and 53% of the clerical support needed to manage the ongoing demand.

With State unemployment being low, our cash assistance caseload has fallen below pre-pandemic caseloads, though we still received 1,373 applications for TANF/TAONF in August 2023. The above chart shows the number of inquiries and applications our staff attend to regularly.

However, in January 2024, the General Assistance program caseload increased from 3,890 households in July 2022 to 4,503 households in January 2024. Additionally, to meet the increased caseload and stay within the program appropriation, on February 1, 2024, BESSD reduced the GA monthly benefit from \$469 per month to \$406 per month to avoid a budget

shortfall. BESSD wants to avoid a reduction below \$406 per month and anticipates that it will likely rely on the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Special Fund (IAR)⁴ to make it out of the current fiscal year.

The SNAP caseload as of December 2023 (= 171,908 individuals) remains well above the pre-pandemic levels of March 2020 (= 153,047 individuals) as food costs remain high.



As we continue to work through a return to regular pre-COVID-19 processes, it has been a tough transition for our workers and clients to reacclimate to regular program requirements after two years of federal waivers that reduced the number of steps and eased processes. In addition, new workers hired during the pandemic require additional training in "pre-pandemic" regular eligibility procedures. We have already adopted business processes to allow workers to work on cases outside of their physical geography, and we will continue to evaluate options, needs, and solutions that will improve operational efficiencies, improve our safety net programs, and allow for continuous adaptation.

BESSD's wildfire responses required rewriting program rules and working with federal partners and new community partners to deliver needed financial assistance for families with dependent children. The SNAP program worked with USDA FNS to set up the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) program across the State for Maui residents who did not already receive SNAP assistance. The D-SNAP program on Maui included Oahu staff who flew and stayed on Maui for the weeklong process. BESSD processed 3,677 D-SNAP applications during the six-day process.

⁴ SB 582 SD2, Relating to State Budget, identifies the IAR as a source of \$901,783 that the Director of Budget & Finance may transfer to the general fund to address the Maui Wildfires. DHS requires the remaining IAR balance to make it out of the current fiscal year.

Our child care programs office also drafted rules that allowed for increased subsidies to Maui residents and continued to work with County and ACF officials to reestablish child care facilities in Maui.

We request your continued support with our resource needs as we continue to deliver benefits and services.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR)

DVR administers statewide vocational rehabilitation services programs for persons with physical, cognitive, and mental health disabilities. These programs include independent living rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, general services for persons who are blind and visually impaired, and the disability determination of claims for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits issued by the Social Security Administration.

DVR provides vocational rehabilitation programs as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stands Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and agreements with other state agencies and the federal government.

DVR MISSION – DVR serves participants who require assistance to prepare for, secure, retain, or advance in competitive, integrated employment. DVR staff works as a team so that participants can achieve their hopes and aspirations for meaningful employment through timely and individualized vocational rehabilitation services.

As of October 3, 2022, DVR met a significant milestone by resolving the Order of Selection (OOS) waitlist, with all eligible applicants proceeding to the development of Individualized Plans for Employment. As a result of clearing the waitlist, DVR is seeing an increase in applications for services from Hawaii residents with disabilities who are eager to obtain, retain, or advance in competitive integrated employment in the workforce. Additionally, DVR continues to work with employers in all sectors to encourage them to hire qualified individuals with disabilities.

DVR is aware that federal vocational rehabilitation funding will be increased to an estimated \$16,392,617 in FFY24, with a required non-federal State match of \$4,436,629 starting in FFY24 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024). The ceiling increase of \$2,767,346 for HMS 802 will ensure that DVR will leverage the available federal funds to support needed services to our community stakeholders.

For Program Year 2022, DVR planned to achieve five performance indicators required by our federal funder, the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education.

The measures include (1) Measurable Skills Gains (MSG) Rate – the percentage of consumers enrolled in training programs who achieve documented skills gains; (2) Employment Rate 2nd Quarter After Exit – the percentage of consumers who are still employed six months after exiting DVR; (3) Median Earnings of consumers who are still employed six months after exiting DVR; (4) Employment Rate 4th Quarter After Exit - the percentage of consumers who are still employed 12 months after exiting DVR; and (5) Credential Attainment Rate- the percentage of participants enrolled in an education or training program (excluding those in On-the-Job Training and customized training) who attain a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma, or its recognized equivalent, during participation in or within one year after exit from DVR’s program services.

DVR achieved 4 of the five federal performance indicators in PY 2022 (7/1/22 - 6/30/23).

Indicator	PY 2022 Required Level vs. Achieved
Measurable Skill Gains (MSG)	35%/Achieved 38.3%
Credential Attainment Rate (CA)	20%/Achieved 41.9%
Employment (Second Quarter After Exit)	33%/Achieved 40%
Employment (Fourth Quarter After Exit)	37.5%/Achieved 30.2%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit)	\$4,400/Achieved \$5,446

The attainment of four of five performance indicators was a significant achievement in light of DVR’s significant vacancy rate (currently at about 40%) due to retirements and resignations. Initiatives are in progress to retain our excellent staff and fill vacancies, including streamlining processes, examining pay rates, planning for additional needed positions, and increasing clear, positive communication for improved staff morale.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

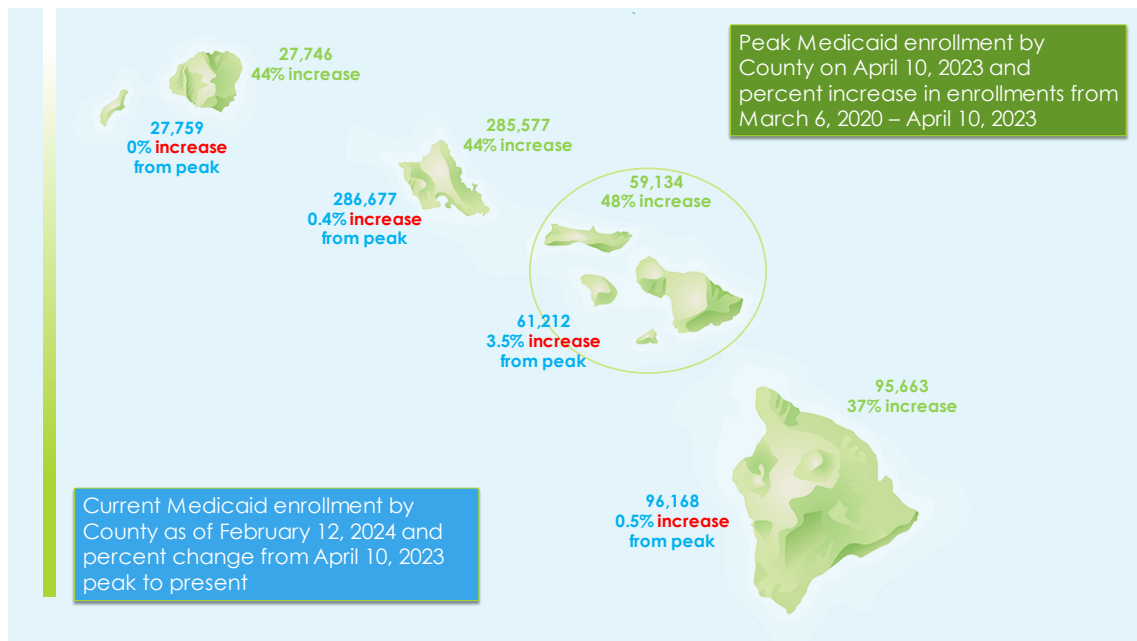
Med-QUEST (MQD) provides Medicaid coverage for over 470,000 residents, representing about 1/3rd of Hawaii's population. The unprecedented number of Medicaid members is a reflection of the congressionally mandated continuous coverage requirement that existed for the three years between March 2020 through April 2023, where all normal eligibility renewals were suspended to ensure people remained covered during the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE). Beginning in April 2023, MQD resumed its annual renewal process. The process of renewing eligibility for over 470,000 members is the largest undertaking of its kind in the

history of Hawaii Medicaid. It has required multiple reconfigurations to the KOLEA Eligibility system, policy waivers from CMS, and updated business processes and training for staff.

There has also been considerable effort put into a communications campaign called “Stay Well Stay Covered” to help inform the community of the restart of eligibility renewals and the need to make sure member contact information is up to date with the program. The campaign also focuses community attention on the importance of reading and responding to the pink letters that MQD sends out to households whose eligibility is up for renewal.

After the Maui wildfires in August, MQD paused its renewal process for three months (September, October, and November) in order to address the complex needs of Maui residents as well as improve the KOLEA Eligibility Systems’ ability to renew members at an individual level more successfully. MQD completed this work and modified the system to push renewals out for all of Maui County to April, May, and June 2024, with all of West Maui Island moving to the last renewal month in June 2024. Renewals for the rest of the state resumed in December 2023 and are running through an improved system that can better account for new CMS-granted flexibilities and maximize potential eligibility for each individual in a household.

As of February 2024, Med-QUEST enrollments remain over 471,000 Hawaii residents, about 1/3rd of Hawaii’s population. With the restart of the full renewal processing, MQD expects that the Medicaid enrollment numbers will trend downward during the upcoming year. Nonetheless, given the high number of Medicaid enrollees, MQD staff will shoulder a significantly increased workload during the restart of the renewal process. Below is a graphic illustrating enrollment by county and percentage increases during the pandemic and since resuming eligibility renewals in April 2023.

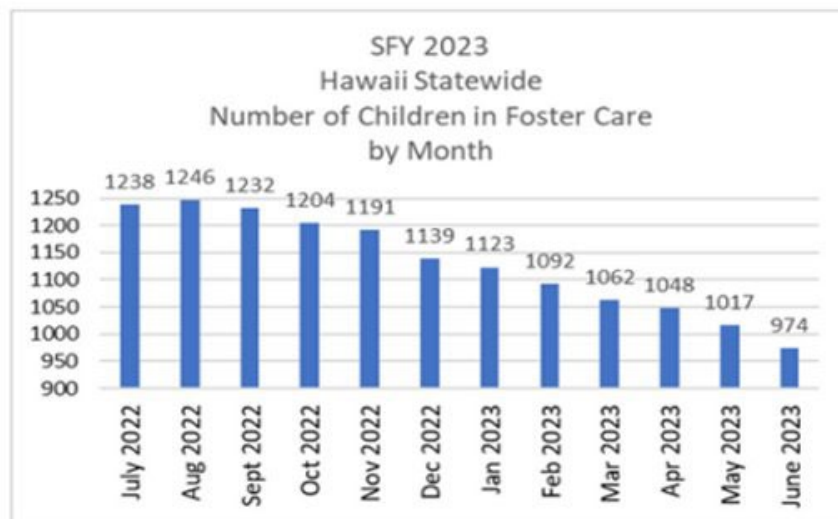


At the pandemic's start, MQD operations rapidly shifted to a telework environment. As the pandemic response continued to shift, MQD made investments to enhance and support a hybrid work environment and increased online access by residents. For example, MQD secured new phone systems enabling workers to field calls from anywhere, upgraded the online Medicaid application and enrollment portal, updated staff computers, and continues to invest in developing IT kiosks or "hale" that can facilitate an online interactive experience in rural communities. These innovations have enabled MQD to continue serving the public with excellence while helping with employee morale.

Social Services Division - Child Welfare Services and Adult Protective & Community Services

The Social Services Division (SSD) provides services to eligible families and individuals. The Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) provides prevention and intervention services to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse and neglect. The Adult Protective & Community Services Branch (APCS) responds to reports of adult neglect or abuse and oversees the Adult Foster Care Program, Senior Companion Program, Foster Grandparent Program, Nurse Aid Training, and Re-Certification curriculum.

- Family First Hawaii



The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)⁵ aims to prevent children from entering foster care, and FFPSA allows states to request up to 50% of federal reimbursement for approved mental health and substance use treatment services and in-home parenting skills training

⁵ FFPSA was included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Pub. Law No. 115-123.

geared to reduce or prevent child abuse and neglect. Notably, FFPSA does not limit the amount available for reimbursement. Hawaii began implementing its federally approved Family First Hawaii Title IV-E Prevention Plan on October 1, 2021.

Of note, FFPSA requires states to pay upfront 100% of the costs of approved FFPSA services and removes income limits to serve more families. To fully implement FFPSA and leverage available federal funds, CWS needs a ready source of nonfederal funds.

To create a sustainable and ready source of state funds, the administration submitted several measures to allow DHS to retain IV-E reimbursements received in the fiscal year after the expenditures were claimed instead of lapsing the reimbursements into the state general fund. Act 84, SLH 2019, added IV-E reimbursements as a source of funds deposited up to \$3M into the Spouse & Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF). Act 250, SLH 2022, increased SCASF's statutory ceiling to \$5,000,000 – the amount currently needed to fund the projected cost of Family First Hawaii's services. However, the budget ceiling of SCASF was not adjusted and currently remains at \$1,163,425.00. Consequently, CWS has not been able to retain and spend the \$5M in federal reimbursements that could be deposited into SCASF to use for Family First Hawaii's child abuse and prevention services.

This year, DHS again requests a budget adjustment to raise the SCASF budget ceiling to \$5,000,000 to align it with the statutory increase and allow CWS access to additional funds. Once the SCASF budget ceiling is adjusted, CWS will be better able to maximize available federal FFPSA reimbursement funds and reinvest the funds toward child abuse and neglect prevention services to support children and families and decrease the number of children entering foster care. Here are the reimbursement amounts for the last two fiscal years that illustrate the potential amounts available for child abuse and neglect services. Predictable funding would avoid the ebb and flow of annual general fund requests and will support capacity building.

Federal Fiscal Year 22

Foster Care	\$12,463,013
Adoption Assistance	\$16,062,127
Guardianship Assistance	\$ 4,308,197

Federal Fiscal Year 23

Foster Care	\$12,989,989
Adoption Assistance	\$15,460,454
Guardianship Assistance	\$ 4,227,313

- Modernization of Data & Case Management Systems

SSD is procuring vendors for the development and implementation of DHS's third phase of its IT modernization efforts. DHS requests Capital Improvement Project funding to modernize the

protective services system of record, and DHS will submit the expenditures for federal reimbursement of a percentage of the total expenditures. The current case management system, the Child Protective Services System (or CPSS), went live in 1989 and is now archaic, cumbersome, and time-consuming to use.

Both CWS and APCS use CPSS. In 2023, given high vacancy rates and complex cases, social workers need better working tools to give them more time to spend with children and families and connect with providers and resource caregivers.

CWS is moving forward with its Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), named HI-THRIVE. CCWIS financing is eligible for 50% federal reimbursement. Currently, DHS estimates the overall planning and implementation cost of CCWIS in the range of \$35 million to \$40 million, with a 50/50 federal reimbursement. However, costs to other states that have already developed their CCWIS project range from \$60 million to \$80 million.

Once in place, CCWIS will improve the workers' and supervisors' case management, enable easier extraction for reporting requirements, and give CWS more opportunities to draw down available Title IV-E funds.

APCS is moving forward with modernizing its data system, Living Aloha for Vulnerable Adults (LAVA), with the assistance of Federal grant money.

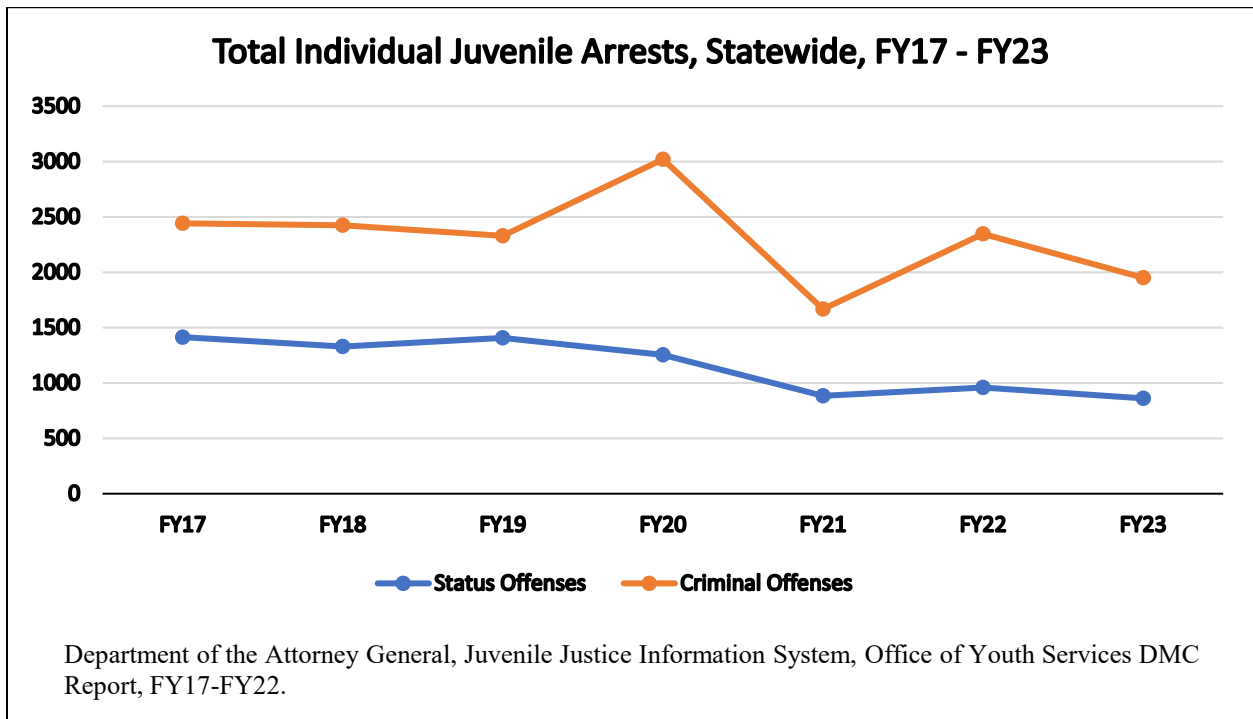
Once implemented, CCWIS and LAVA will make data entry easier, support higher quality data, allow for more accurate and timely reporting, offer decision-making guidance, and provide more access and data sharing with clients and our external partners.

Office of Youth Services

With a solid commitment to the needs of children and families, the Office of Youth Services (OYS) is responsible for the planning, case management, and delivery of services to youth at risk (section 352D-1, HRS). In addition, OYS oversees the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities (HYCF), the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (section 352D-7.5, HRS), and the support staff for the Hawaii State Youth Commission (section 352D-11, HRS).

Community-wide juvenile justice reform, including an investment in OYS contracted programs, has had a positive impact on reducing juvenile arrests and successfully diverting youth from the justice system. Figure 1 shows the number of individual juveniles arrested for both status and law offenses. Arrests in both categories for FY23 are lower than in pre-pandemic fiscal years 2017 through 2019.

Figure 1.



These positive results are due to upfront system prevention programs and services for at-risk youth, including positive youth development, cultural programs, outreach and advocacy, housing, and diversion programs. Reductions of these programs or failure to address the increased needs of children will counteract these positive trends, decrease public safety, and increase youth entering into and moving deeper through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 2.

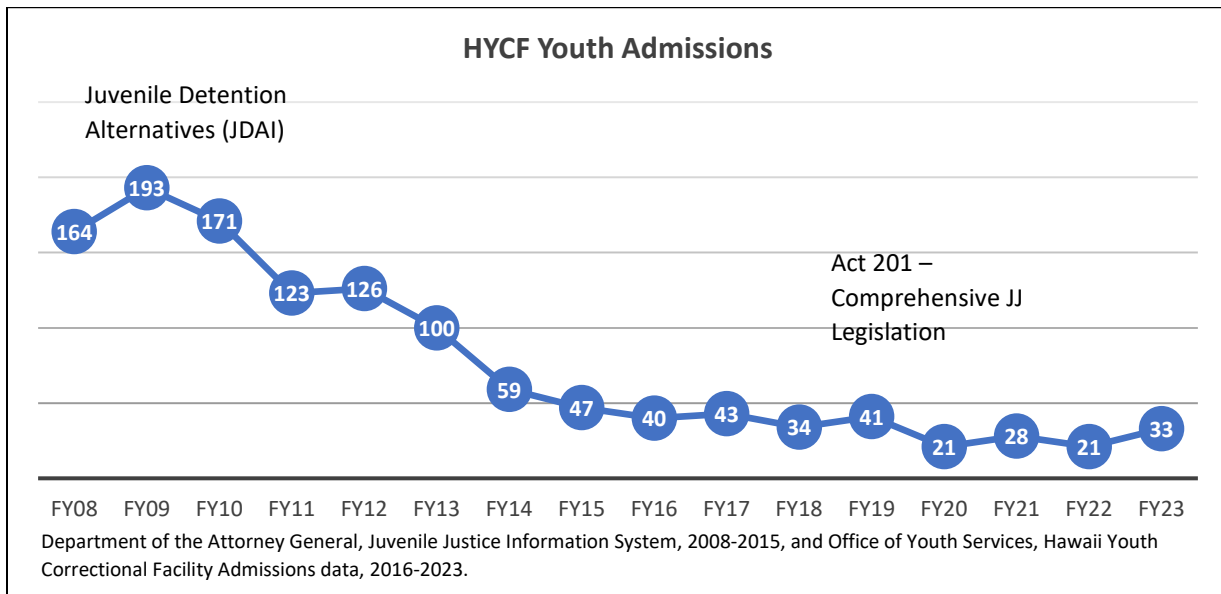


Figure 2 above shows juvenile admissions to HYCF from fiscal years 2008 through 2023. From 2009, when Hawaii invested in the national Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) program, to 2023, admissions to HYCF were reduced by 83%. Alarming, admissions to HYCF in FY23 increased by 64% from the preceding year. If this post-pandemic trend continues, HYCF may experience pre-Act 201 (SLH 2014) admission levels – erasing a decade’s worth of justice reform progress.

This disturbing occurrence demonstrates a system that is not meeting the community’s need for increased support post-pandemic. With the additional displacement and trauma experienced by victims of the Lahaina wildfires, community needs will continue to increase in the upcoming years. Investment in front-end programs and services is needed to maintain progress and to reduce justice system involvement for at-risk youth. OYS includes a request for funds for youth mental health programs.

Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

In 1964, Governor John A. Burns created the Hawai’i State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Commission) by Executive Order. The work of the CSW is codified in sections 367-1, HRS, and sections 367-3 (1) through (8), HRS.

Currently, the CSW FTEs are vacant. However, applicants have been recruited, and interviews are ongoing. DHS anticipates hiring a new Executive Director within the next month.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) will report separately.

The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority will provide testimony separately.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget Requests

HMS 904 – General Administration

Req Cat	Dept Pri	Prog ID	Proj No.	Project Title	MOF	FY25
C	1	HMS 904	FY25.3	IT Modernization	C	20,000,000
C	1	HMS 904	FY25.3	IT Modernization	N	20,000,000

FY25.3 – IT Modernization

The CIP funds are needed to complete the new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) solution, which is intended to integrate with BESSD and MQD systems, including the design, development, and implementation (DDI) work, Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V), business process redesign and Organizational Change Management (OCM) support, implement enhancements needed to integrate with the existing DHS systems and data and expand the department's data analytics system to include BES/CCWIS/KOLEA.

IT modernization investments enable DHS to support the department's vision of "An Agency of One" that includes an integrated and person- and family-centered model of practice, including the provision of a robust consumer self-service resource. The integration of DHS eligibility solutions allows applicants to apply for multiple programs and benefits at the same time, validate and verify information electronically, and determine eligibility efficiently to assist families in accessing services as soon as possible.

HMS 503 – Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

Req Cat	Dept Pri	Prog ID	Proj No.	Project Title	MOF	FY25
M	2	HMS 503	FY25.1	KYFWC Air Conditioning Systems Replacement and Related Improvements	C	683,000

Req Cat	Dept Pri	Prog ID	Proj No.	Project Title	MOF	FY25
M	3	HMS 503	FY25.2	KYFWC Replace Emergency Generators and Other Improvements	C	1,628,000

FY25.1 - KYFWC Air Conditioning Systems Replacement and Related Improvements

Air Conditioning Systems replacement and related improvements. The estimated useful life of these improvements is more than 15 years due to 24/7 usage.

This project will replace the aging air conditioning system units located at the Secure Custody Facility (Building 1), the Observation and Assessment Cottage (Building 7), and the Maluhia Cottage (Building 4). These units run constantly to cool areas in these buildings where there are no other sources of ventilation from outside.

The impact of Hawaii’s salt air on these units has resulted in corrosion, reduced efficiency and airflow, and increased maintenance needs. The current units require significant repairs as the condition of the units continues to deteriorate. The cooling coils are in need of replacement soon, and the cost to replace these coils (labor and materials) exceeds the value and life expectancy of the current air conditioning system units.

Should the project be deferred, the health, safety, and living conditions of incarcerated youth and other youth/young adults on campus will be affected and compromised while the units are down for repair. Locating parts for the units has been a challenge for vendors due to the age of the units. HYCF will continue to accrue significant repair costs as current units continue to age.

FY25.2 – KYFWC Replace Emergency Generators and Other Improvements

Plans, design, and construction to replace existing emergency generators that service the Secure Correctional Facility, Observation and Assessment Cottage, Maluhia Cottage. The estimated useful life of these improvements is more than 20 years.

This project will replace the existing emergency generators that provide backup electrical service to the Secured Correctional Facility, Observation and Assessment Cottage, and Maluhia Cottage. The emergency generators are approaching 30 years old, and while they are regularly maintained, corrosion has been significant, and replacement parts are becoming harder to find. Thus, the service life is nearing the end. The work involves the demolition of the existing generators, installation of new generators, a new generator building for the unit at Maluhia Cottage, and other related improvements.

HYCF is a 24/7 secure custody facility and needs the air conditioning system to be running for the health and safety of minor wards and staff, as there are no operable windows to let in the

outside air. As a correctional facility, HYCF must comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). One method of compliance is the use of video surveillance equipment, which requires the generator to back power during power failures. An inability to conduct camera surveillance creates safety issues, places HYCF in violation of PREA, and inhibits our response to and protection of potential assaults and victims of potential assaults, etc. Additionally, administration and kitchen food service operations will be negatively impacted if there is power loss for extended amounts of time.

Operating Budget Requests

Office of Youth Services (OYS)

HMS 501 – In-Community Youth Programs

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
501YA-51	TO-2	Transfer in HR Spclt IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117906	A	1.00		86,376
501YA-52	TO-4	Transfer in GP III from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 118511	A	1.00		62,136
501YA-53	TO-3	Transfer in Investigator IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117903	A	1.00		68,280
501YA-55	OR-10	Add Funds to Support Youth Mental Health	A			1,000,000

501YA-51: (503YB-51) Transfer of HR Spclt IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117906

This is a housekeeping request to transfer the position and salary of Human Resources Specialist 117906 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This proposed adjustment will accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

501YA-52: (503YB-52) Transfer of GP III from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 118511

This housekeeping request is to transfer the position and salary of General Professional III 118511 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within

HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This proposed adjustment will accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

501YA-53: (503YB-53) Transfer of Investigator IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117903

This housekeeping request is to transfer the position and salary of Investigator IV 117903 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This proposed adjustment will accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

501YA-55: Add Funds to Support Youth Mental Health

In accordance with section 352D-D, HRS, the Office of Youth Services (OYS) is responsible for providing services to at-risk youth to facilitate optimum service delivery, prevent delinquency, and reduce recidivism through prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment. OYS creates opportunities for at-risk youth to become productive, responsible citizens through community-based and family-focused interventions. Among these interventions are housing and mental health services for youth.

Nationally, children suffering from anxiety and depression increased by 25.5% from 2016 to 2020, with Hawaii children showing a 22.4% increase. In 2022, Hawaii ranked 22 out of 50 states for Overall Child Well-Being.⁶ In 2023, Hawaii dropped to 25th place.⁷ In Hawaii, since the COVID-19 pandemic, youth are displaying increased behavioral and mental health issues. This request serves to increase funding for residential safe houses (\$550,000). This funding will allow for safe houses, which traditionally only serve low-risk youth, additional staff, and licensed mental health professionals so they can provide treatment and support to high-risk youth. High-risk youth are generally those individuals who are early system-involved youth, arrest or family court involvement, and need treatment and program support to divert them from moving further through the juvenile justice system.

This request also serves to provide specialized funding to increase mental health services to LGBTQ+ youth, a population identified as being at high risk for self-harm, substance abuse, behavioral and mental health issues, and victims of abuse and trafficking (\$200,000). OYS has not contracted for services that specifically serve this population, and the population has been largely underserved. An OYS contract for these services will be the first by OYS.

Additionally, OYS works with the DOH/Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) to provide mental health treatment to youth who are not eligible for CAMHD services. OYS' original 2017 contract was for \$300,000 annually. In 2021, due to budget cuts, this contract was reduced to \$60,000 annually. In 2022, OYS increased funding to \$150,000 annually to

⁶ 2022 Kids Count Data Book, State Trends in Child Well-Being, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2022.

⁷ 2023 Kids Count Data Book, State Trends in Child Well-Being, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2023.

address the increased demand for mental health services for youth in the community. However, more resources are necessary to meet the needs of youth.

In the calendar year 2022, OYS received 52 referrals for CAMHD services. In only the first six months of 2023 (January - June), OYS received more than the entire 2022-year total, 56 referrals. During this same period, the cost of mental health services for these youth was \$230,606.07, well beyond the capacity of OYS' current contract. DOH recently conducted a comprehensive rate study and determined that an increase of 60% is needed to meet current service costs. This request includes restoring our appropriation to the 2017-2020 amount of \$300,000 annually (\$150,000).

Safe Houses	650,000
LGBTQ+	200,000
Non-Eligible CAMHD Youth \$150,000	150,000
Total	1,000,000

HMS 503 – Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST Description	MOF	FY25		
				FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
503YB-51	TO-2	Transfer out HR Spclt IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117906	A	(1.00)		(86,376)
503YB-52	TO-4	Transfer out GP III from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 118511	A	(1.00)		(62,136)
503YB-53	TO-3	Transfer out Investigator IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117903	A	(1.00)		(68,280)
503YB-54	OR-4	Add Funds for HYCF Utilities	A			260,000

503YB-51: (501YA-51) Transfer HR Spclt IV from HMS 503 TO HMS 501, position 117906

This housekeeping request is to transfer the position and salary of Human Resources Specialist 117906 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This adjustment will accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

503YB-52: (501YA-52) Transfer GP III from HMS 503 TO HMS 501, position 118511

This housekeeping request is to transfer the position and salary of General Professional III 118511 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This proposal is to reflect the current organizational structure accurately.

503YB-53: (501YA-53) Transfer Investigator IV from HMS 503 to HMS 501, position 117903

This housekeeping request is to transfer the position and salary of Investigator IV 117903 from HMS 503 to HMS 501. The incumbent in this position physically resides within HMS 501, and HMS 501 has supervisory control over this position. This adjustment will accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

503YB-54: Add Funds for HYCF Utilities

This request is for an additional \$260,000 for utility expenses. These utility expenses were previously covered with \$520,000 with general funds, though Act 88, SLH 2021, replaced the funding with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds. (See 2021 Legislative Worksheets for HMS 503, seq# 60-001, or Form A 503YB-PRA1). With the end of ARPA funding, Act 164, SLH 2023, provided \$520,000 in general funds for FY24 and only \$260,000 in general funds for FY25. (See 2023 Legislative Worksheets for HMS 503, seq# 100-001, or Form A 503YB-02.) However, utilities are a fixed cost, and additional general funds are needed for repair and maintenance, safehouses, and transition programs that will be impacted beginning in FY25 under the current budget.

Currently, the campus of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) supports five residential programs that total 70 beds for at-risk youth and young adults. KYFWC also has an additional monthly average of 150 participants in day programs. The individual programs and their populations encompass incarceration, homeless young adults, commercially sexually exploited children, vocational training, education, farming, and ranching. The current operational budget is insufficient to cover the requested amount. If this request is approved, it would prevent undue hardship for the campus and other community-based programs that will be impacted.

Benefits, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD)

HMS 224 - Homeless Services

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount

224HS-51	OR-6	Request for additional funds to increase HPO contracts	A			1,320,000
----------	------	--	---	--	--	-----------

224HS-51: Request for additional funds to increase all State HPO contracts by 5%

The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requests additional funds for contract providers as DHS expects the demand for homeless services to increase due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of low-income and affordable housing inventory, and the impacts of the Maui Wildfires on existing resources. HPO contract providers deliver critical services, such as homeless outreach, shelter, family assessment centers, civil legal services, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, state homeless emergency grants, and housing placement.

The role of HPO contract providers will be especially critical in the recovery stages of the crisis. Between 2016 and 2022, Hawaii saw a steady 25 percent decrease in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness statewide from 7,921 to 5,973. However, in the most recent year, from 2022 to 2023, the number of homeless individuals statewide began to climb - increasing by 4% (250 people) in just one year.

HPO contract providers are losing staff due to low salaries as contract amounts have not increased. In contrast, the cost of doing business has increased, including the step increases in the minimum wage. Many contracted providers are challenged with staff capacity issues and struggle to meet the demands of homeless individuals and families with the existing contract amounts. Also, due to inflation, the contracted providers are struggling to cover the increased costs of doing business as costs of office supplies, equipment, office leases, utilities, and gas have all gone up. For example, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average weekly wage in Hawaii increased 36% between 2016 and 2023, while the appropriation for contracted providers has remained level.

Homelessness continues to remain one of the most pressing issues for the state. This request for additional funds will help HPO to increase all state HPO contract amounts to a 5% increase to cover costs associated with delivering necessary homeless services without delay.

HMS 236 – Case Management for Self-Sufficiency

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
236LC-52	SY-12	Add General Funding for Pohulani Lease	A			490,000

236LC-52: Add General Funds for Pohulani Lease

Act 164, SLH 2023 appropriated \$490,000 for the Pohulani Processing Center lease for FY24. Additional funding is requested for FY25, to be appropriated on a recurring basis, to be able to pay the obligation to Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC) for the continuous use of the space for the Pohulani Processing Center.

The Pohulani Processing Center services residents of East Honolulu and serves 12,132 financial and SNAP cases. It also includes First to Work (FTW) (154 clients) and Child Care Licensing units (315 providers). Therefore, interruption of services would impact a significant number of residents and program operations.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) Leasing Services Branch provides centralized office leasing services to all Executive Branch departments. The statewide program of the Leasing Branch is to lease commercial office space from private sector property owners when there is no available or appropriate space in state office buildings controlled by the DAGS.

DHS' previous lease (32-10-0353) for BESSD/Pohulani Processing Center with HHFDC ended on August 31, 2022. DHS subleases the fourth floor in the Pohulani Building from HHFDC, not the private owner. DAGS informed DHS on December 29, 2022, that the DAGS Leasing Branch would no longer pay for DHS' rent from September 1, 2022, onward and that DHS needs to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) directly with HHFDC since the agreement is between two state agencies.

HHFDC and DHS finalized the new lease (MOA) on December 9, 2022. Previously, HHFDC sent DAGS Leasing Branch the invoice for rent, then DAGS paid HHFDC directly, and afterward, DAGS sent DHS BESSD a bill for collection for the federal portion, which was 50% of the rent. DHS Fiscal Management Office (FMO) then created a Journal Voucher (JV) for the payment to DAGS for the federal share. With DAGS Leasing Branch no longer involved, BESSD now receives the Bill for Collection directly from HHFDC and is now charged the entire rent (federal portion plus the general fund portion that DAGS used to pay). The term of the lease is from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2032.

HMS 305 – Cash Support for Child Care

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
305PK-51	TO-1	(903FA-55) Transfer out POD Funds to HMS 903 from HMS 305	A			(6,000,000)

305PK-51: (903FA-55) Transfer out POD Funds from HMS 305 to HMS 903

This request supports the implementation of Lieutenant Governor Luke’s Ready Keiki initiative to invest in early childhood and increase access to child care for Hawaii’s 3- and 4-year-olds.

Act 264, SLH 2023, appropriated an additional \$38.8 million to the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program and increased the amount of general funds for POD child care payments from \$11.6 million to \$50.4 million starting in State Fiscal Year 2025.⁸ In addition to this general fund increase, ensuing discussions proposed to supplement these general funds with federal TANF funds to cover POD child care payments for working families who meet the eligibility requirements to allow DHS to use TANF funds for their child care needs. DHS estimated that using TANF for this purpose could add approximately \$60-\$70 million in TANF federal funds towards POD child care payments.

To carry out the use of TANF for POD child care payments and to ensure that POD child care payments are readily available to eligible families, general funds are needed in the Program ID for TANF support service payments. Using general funds in this manner will avoid the 48-72 hour delay it takes for federal funds to be drawn down from the federal source to become available to the state. The general funds are used for cash flow purposes to ensure child care payments are readily available for eligible families. BESSD then uses the general fund expenditures to draw down the TANF federal funds to reimburse the state, and then the reimbursement is available to be used again for the child care payment.

As noted, DHS estimates that the potential federal expenditure for POD could be between \$60-\$70 million annually. This request to transfer \$6 million will ensure sufficient monthly cash flow for the timely availability of POD cash payments to eligible families.

HMS 903 – General Support for Self-Sufficiency Services

⁸ The substantial increase is to facilitate the expansion of POD to 3-year-old children and to increase the amount of child care subsidies; see Act 171 (SLH 2023).

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
903FA-52	OR-20	Additional Funding for Adjusted BES M&O	A			288,177
903FA-52	OR-20	Additional Funding for Adjusted BES M&O	N			255,500
903FA-55	TO-1	(305PK-51) Transfer in POD Funds to HMS 903 from HMS 305	A			6,000,000

903FA-52: Additional Funding for Adjusted BES M&O

This request is for additional funds for the Benefits Eligibility Solution (BES) system to modernize the department’s legacy eligibility system HAWI (Hawaii Automated Welfare Information) system. The BES system is currently on schedule to go live in the fall of 2024. It will be the system to determine eligibility, authorize benefits, and provide ongoing eligibility case management for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF), General Assistance (GA), and Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD) programs.

The ongoing M&O funding for BES is crucial to ensure there is ongoing maintenance for the new eligibility system.

In 2018, the Legislature previously appropriated maintenance and operations (M&O) funds for the BES system with the anticipation that the BES system would be operational within the following calendar year. However, the completion of the system build did not materialize at that time. The BES system is now on pace to go live in fall 2024; M&O estimates have been re-evaluated from the initial M&O cost estimate, which was \$4,876,383 annually, to the current estimate of \$5,420,000 annually. The net result of this re-evaluation is an annual increase of \$543,617.

903FA-55: (305PK-51) Transfer in POD Funds to HMS 903 from HMS 305

Please refer to item 305PK-51 above in HMS 305. This request is a part of Lieutenant Governor Luke’s Ready Keiki initiative to invest in early childhood and increase access to child care for Hawaii’s 3- and 4-year-olds.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

HMS 802 – Vocational Rehabilitation

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
802GA-53	TO-5	Transfer Acct Clk III 6402 and Acct IV 13373 from HMS 802 to HMS 904	A	(1.34)		(106,825)
802GA-53	TO-5	Transfer Acct Clk III 6402 and Acct IV 13373 from HMS 802 to HMS 904	N	(.66)		(54,287)

802GA-53: (904AA-53) Transfer positions from HMS 802 to HMS 904

This housekeeping request relates to two DVR positions that provide support and assistance to DVR, though they are organizationally located in a department staff office. These positions are Account Clerk III #6402 and Accountant IV #13373. Currently, both positions are in the Plan of Organization under the Fiscal Management Office (FMO) HMS 904AA and are budgeted under HMS 802GA. These positions were initially set up in this manner in the 1960s, as DVR was just being established as a part of DHS. To help DVR operations function more effectively, we request that these two positions be budgeted correctly under FMO HMS 904AA. This request will not require any additional funds from the state as it is simply a matter of transferring two positions from HMS 802GA to HMS 904AA. The functions of these two positions providing support and assistance to DVR will remain the same.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

HMS 401 – Health Care Payments

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY25			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
401PE-51	FE-1	HCBS Rate Increase	A			5,750,000
401PE-51	FE-1	HCBS Rate Increase	N			9,775,000

401PE-51:

Med-QUEST (MQD) is very appreciative of the recent approvals to increase provider rates for professional services and nursing facilities. Another area where rates have not increased in several years is rates for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). To this end, Med-QUEST requests \$5.75M A funds/\$9.78M N funds to increase rates for certain HCBS services.

HCBS are essential to keep kupuna and people with disabilities from having to move to significantly more expensive nursing facilities. Rate increases are necessary to address rising operational costs and severe workforce shortages. The requested amounts are based on rate studies. In 2022 and 2023, MQD conducted rate studies for various types of HCBS, including Community Care Family Foster Homes, Adult Residential Care Homes, Adult Day Services providers, and other HCBS services. With significant provider engagement, the gathering of relevant data on provider costs, and wage survey data, the studies showed significant wage pressure given the current labor market.

HMS 902 – General Support for Health Care Payments

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST		FY25		
		Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
902IA-52	OR-22	Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Pharmacist FTE from 0.50 to 1.00	B	0.25		38,417
902IA-52	OR-22	Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Pharmacist FTE from 0.50 to 1.00	N	0.25		38,417
902IA-53	OR-23	Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Dentist FTE from 0.25 to 0.50	B	0.06		11,041
902IA-53	OR-23	Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Dentist FTE from 0.25 to 0.50	N	0.19		34,799
902IA-54	OR-24	Convert 2.00 FTE from Temp to Perm	A	1.00	(1.00)	
902IA-54	OR-24	Convert 2.00 FTE from Temp to Perm	N	1.00	(1.00)	

902IA-52: Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Pharmacist FTE from 0.50 to 1.00

This request looks to increase the Pharmacist to 1 FTE. With increased capacity, MQD would be better able to provide oversight, monitoring and management for our pharmacy benefit. Prescription drugs and the pharmacy program are increasingly complex and require additional oversight and management. There are potential cost savings eventually in the form of increased rebates and lower drug costs through improved medication adherence and management.

902IA-53: Add 0.25 FTE and Funds to Increase Dentist FTE from 0.25 to 0.50

This request looks to increase the Dentist's FTE to 0.5 FTE. With the implementation of the Adult Dental benefit in January 2023, there is significantly more need for consultation with a dentist. The dentist consults with MQD leadership on coverage and benefits questions, reimbursement rates, increasing network access, and other oral health initiatives.

902IA-54: Convert 2.00 FTE from Temp to Perm

This request looks to convert 2.0 FTEs in the Health Analytics Office from temporary to permanent. These positions serve as the technical lead in overseeing the collection and reporting from MQD contractors, including the QUEST Health Plans and hospitals, and support the evaluation of these reports to provide contract oversight of the state's Medicaid program. In 2021, MQD's Health Analytics Office (HAO) applied for and received over \$25 Million in funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to build a large analytics data warehouse and analytic platform. Lasting staffing is urgently needed to oversee the tremendous task of ensuring that the platform is planned, designed, implemented, and managed properly to achieve its intended vision and purpose. These positions support the incorporation of critical data sets and reporting requirements into this platform, provide data validation, and develop reports for submission to CMS from the platform. (This change reflects both an addition and a reduction for this conversion. MQD needs the positions to be maintained. Therefore, the reduction cannot be taken in isolation.)

Social Services Division (SSD)

HMS 301 – Child Protective Services

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 24			FY25		
301SA-51	OR-11	Increase Special Fund Appropriation Ceiling for the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund	B						5,000,000

301SA-51: Increase Special Fund Appropriation Ceiling for the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund

The Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB) CWS requests that the budget ceiling of the Spouse & Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) be increased to \$5,000,000.00 to align with Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which amended SCASF's ceiling to \$5M in the HRS. CWSB needs a ready source of non-federal funds to implement Hawaii's Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) plan, Family First Hawaii. In addition to vital records fees, SCASF may receive federal reimbursements from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act when the state receives the reimbursements in the following fiscal year from which the Title IV-E funds were expended.

CWS is limited to the SCASF's current budget ceiling of \$1,163,425. As a result, CWSB can only retain and access this amount. The table here reflects the federal reimbursements received by CWS, of which \$5,000,000 could be repurposed and used to fund child abuse and prevention services if the budget ceiling is raised. These reimbursements are not being deposited into SCASF until the ceiling is raised. The chart below illustrates the amount of Title IV-E reimbursements that are returned to the general fund when received in the following fiscal year from when the amounts were expended.

	QTE 6/30/21	QTE 6/30/22
Foster Care	\$3,473,757	\$2,468,490
Adoption Assistance	\$4,011,933	\$4,001,716
Guardianship Assistance	\$1,065,325	\$1,076,414
Total:	\$8,551,015	\$7,546,620

The alternative would be to request general funds, which is problematic in years when state revenues decrease. Increasing child abuse and prevention services through Family First Hawaii supports children and families so that children can remain safely in their homes and avoid placement in foster care. Under FFPSA, the state may receive up to 50% federal reimbursement for state or nonfederal funds used for approved child abuse and prevention services.

DHS Administration

HMS 904 - General Administration

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST		FY25		
		Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
904AA-52	OR-2	Add 2.00 FTE and Funds to restore the Deputy Director and Private Secretary	A	2.00		243,360
904AA-53	TO-5	Transfer Acct Clk III 6402 and Acct IV 13373 from HMS 802 to HMS 904	A	1.34		106,825
904AA-53	TO-5	Transfer Acct Clk III 6402 and Acct IV 13373 from HMS 802 to HMS 904	N	0.66		54,287
904AA-56	WR-3	Funds for Emergency Management Tied to the Maui Wildfires	A		3.0	13,370,000*
904AA-56	WR-3	Funds for Emergency Management Tied to the Maui Wildfires	N		3.0	12,211,402*

*Form A adjustments to be included in a forthcoming Governor's Message.

904AA-52: Add Funds for DHS Deputy Director and Secretary II

The Department of Human Services (DHS) requests the budget adjustment to reflect the restoration of the Second Deputy Director and Private Secretary positions and to add a general fund appropriation for the salaries of the second deputy and private secretary.

Act 42, SLH 2023, restored and permanently exempts DHS' second deputy director position from provisions of civil service; with the deputy's restoration, section 76-16(b)(9), HRS, provides a private secretary for each deputy.

For SFY 2024, DHS used vacancy savings from HMS 904 to cover the salaries of the second deputy director and private secretary positions. The second deputy director started on August 1, 2023, and quickly engaged in the demands of the role in response to the Maui Wildfires on August 8, 2023. The additional deputy director position has proven to be invaluable as DHS has taken on multiple lines of effort to support the disaster response while providing executive leadership of the department.

The effective management of the department and its programs requires collaboration within the department, with other state, federal, and local agencies, with the community, and with clients served. However, maintaining these necessary collaborations further erodes the ability of the Office of the Director to fully oversee personnel matters, fiscal and budget issues, information technology development, and operational matters related to quality control, program oversight, and reporting.

Successful programs help Hawaii residents achieve self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy lifestyles, and personal dignity, as well as contribute to the State's economic base.

904AA-53: (802GA-53) Transfer Position from HMS 802 to HMS 904

This housekeeping request will consolidate both the permanent FTEs and the funding for Account Clerk III 6402 and Accountant IV 13373 into HMS 904 from DVR HMS 802. Currently, these two positions operate within the DHS Fiscal Management Office (FMO) but are budgeted in HMS 802/GA. This setup was part of a reorganization effort whereby the vocational rehabilitation function was incorporated into the Department of Social Services (precursor to DHS) in the mid-1960s. The proposed consolidation action will result in better, more efficient administration of these positions under a single program manager. This is a net zero fiscal impact request.

The functions of these positions will remain the same as they are now, providing support and assistance to DVR.

904AA-56: Add Funds for Emergency Management*

DHS will submit a revised Form A for this request to amend the budget request as part of a Governor's Message. At the time of the initial submission of this request, we were pending the review and approval of the FEMA DCMP grant application. Based upon FEMA's award, we have made adjustments to the expenditures, though the request for general funds remains at the original amount of \$13,370,000 A.

DHS requires general fund appropriations to support the department's Maui emergency management and long-term recovery response, including the State's Disaster Case Management Program (DHS DCMP). This request includes funds for three temporary exempt administrative positions dedicated to the Maui response, operations, and IT support and funds to meet the needs of survivors who may be ineligible for FEMA or other federal disaster assistance. The Director's Office needs staff and resources dedicated to the Maui relief efforts to lead an equitable recovery.

DHS is the State's lead agency for the DCMP that will provide intensive disaster case management for all survivors of the Maui wildfires. DHS applied on behalf of the State for the FEMA DCMP grant that FEMA approved on November 8, 2023. The initial award is just over \$17M, and the performance period for the award is from August 10, 2023, through August 10, 2025. DHS launched the FEMA-funded DCMP (DHS DCMP) on February 21, 2024.

Given the magnitude of the disaster, we anticipate the DCMP may be a three- to four-year (or more) effort and will require a request for additional FEMA funding, which is available. To immediately implement the DCMP, DHS created a special project for six additional temporary exempt administrative positions in the Director's Office to oversee both the DCMP and all Maui recovery efforts. The FEMA grant covers the salaries of the DCMP Program Director (\$156,000), Financial Director (\$124,800), and Administrative Assistant (\$51,996). DHS requires general funds for the other three positions listed, including the DCMP Administrator (\$110,000), Maui Emergency Response Director (\$112,944), and EM Communications Director (105,516).

While awaiting FEMA review and approval, DHS received a grant from the American Red Cross to initiate a 90-day interim DCMP to serve families identified by the American Red Cross as ineligible for FEMA benefits. The interim DCMP includes three Maui community-based organizations and up to 20 disaster case managers. DHS will build upon the experience of the interim DCMP and implement the DHS DCMP.

The DHS DCMP will provide case management and navigation assistance for all Maui fire survivors that we currently estimate to be approximately 10,000 (including 200 individuals who were pre-disaster unsheltered; as of 9/27/2023, more than 6,000 - 8,000 individuals were residing in the Non-congregate Shelter (NCS) Hotels or in Airbnb. Ultimately, DHS aims to roll out the DHS DCMP in 3 phases over the course of the FEMA grant period and anticipates a need for up to 200 case managers, necessary supervision, and support staff to serve the entire population of those survivors impacted by the Maui wildfires.

This budget request includes funds for permanency services, including but not limited to rental subsidies, including first-month rent and deposit, utilities, document replacement, vehicle replacement, travel, and other personal expenses primarily for Maui Wildfire survivors who are not eligible for FEMA assistance due to their citizenship or because they were unsheltered before the wildfires. Funds will also be used for travel assistance for survivors to relocate off-island or out of state to seek housing, employment, or educational opportunities as the debris removal and rebuilding processes are ongoing.

As a benchmark for the next fiscal year, we anticipate serving 300 households without dependent children, up to \$25,000 each, on par with the amounts allocated for families with dependent children served by the DHS Maui Relief TANF Program and private donations. However, we can anticipate serving more families than the benchmark; as of 03/1/24, the DHS Maui Relief TANF Program provided 905 families 905 (=3,263 individuals) an average of \$5,942 each, with the highest categories being rent or mortgage assistance. Of note, applicants to the DHS Maui Relief TANF Program report that it is difficult to find affordable rentals, so they have not accessed rental assistance at the outset.

The DHS DCMP will serve as a connection point for all other DHS wildfire response initiatives. The proposed Maui Emergency Response Director (\$112,944) and EM Communications Director (\$105,516) will continue to coordinate these efforts and all communication related to the Maui response activities.

Since the August 8 wildfires, DHS has been actively working to address the immediate needs of individuals, families, and community providers. DHS facilitates the state's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 - Mass Care & Feeding. As part of those support function responsibilities, the DHS Director's Office led negotiations with Airbnb and with DHS staff assisted survivors into non-congregate Airbnb and other shelters. DHS staff also helped survivors at community and disaster resource centers with applications to existing public benefit programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Benefits (SNAP) and Medicaid. Program administrators also requested program waivers allowing SNAP recipients statewide to purchase hot meals and paused the Medicaid eligibility determination process statewide; after the pause, DHS restored Medicaid coverage to 27,000 enrollees terminated on procedural grounds. DHS also staged a statewide Disaster SNAP application process that allowed nearly 3,400 families who did not already receive SNAP assistance to get some nutrition assistance for food lost due to the fire. Significantly, DHS contributed to ensuring language access services - translation and interpretation are a priority for Maui residents.

Additional efforts include: (1) standing up the Pu'uhonua of Nene and operating a temporary field shelter site in Kahului. The temporary field shelter is the option for adult-only households unsheltered before the fires and ineligible for FEMA and American Red Cross housing support. The temporary field shelter opened on 9/29/2023 and requires an appropriation of \$4.5M to HMS 904 (temporary shelter services) for the supplemental budget year. Following the supplemental year, this site will likely be transitioned to HMS 777, SOHHS, to maintain a permanent shelter space. The preliminary estimate of individuals to be served at the temporary field shelter is up to 150 individuals at any one time; (2) obtaining waivers from the federal Administration for Children and Families and a \$5M grant from the Hawaii Community Foundation to

provide cash assistance to families with dependent children through the Maui Relief TANF Program; and the DHS Rental Assistance Program for households without dependent children. With the funds from the Hawaii Community Foundation, families with children who are not eligible for TANF due to their citizenship will receive the same assistance as other families with children; (3) Rental Assistance Program (RAP) that provides rental assistance for households and are not eligible for FEMA assistance.

Specific to the Maui Wildfires, a new Disaster Management damage assessment data collection system was implemented to improve situational awareness and provide a standardized way for disaster documentation, and needs assessments were collected to help secure more accurate numbers for disaster declaration and assist in getting higher FEMA Reimbursements. Additional disaster management system capabilities will need to be implemented to ensure that the initial disaster management systems will be usable for multiple disaster types going forward. These funds (\$800,000) will be used for the software tools and professional services to ensure real-time integrations and data exchanges between the multiple systems, the DCM systems, and multiple DHS anti-fraud program and benefits reporting systems. The remaining funds (\$55,540) are needed for additional computing and telecom equipment required to support these additional IT services.

DHS Overall

Federal Fund Adjustment Requests

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST		FY25		
		Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
220RH-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			7,540,597
222RA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			4,797,969
224HS-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			74,000
237NA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			1,011,714
302DA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			97,799
401PE-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			179,125,760
802GA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			704,680
301SA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			4,148,796
301SA-FFP	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	P			293,775

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY25		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
303WP-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	N			690,000
501YA-FF	FA-1	Adjust Federal Fund Ceiling	N			(922,784)
601TA-FF	FA-1	Adjust Federal Fund Ceiling	N			(3,190,556)
903FA-FF	FA-1	Increase Federal Fund Ceiling	P			7,000
904AA-FF	FA-1	Adjust Federal Fund Ceiling	P			(1,500)

Form FF Reconciliation

Additional federal fund ceiling is requested based on a comparison of federal fund appropriations under Act 164, SLH 2023, and anticipated federal fund requirements for FY25.

Appendix 1 – DHS Key Performance Indicators

Updated as of 11/15/23 SFY19 figures and beyond were added to KPI #2 DHS Strategic Plan							
STATEWIDE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INDICATORS	SFY17 (6/30/17)	SFY18 (6/30/18)	SFY19 (6/30/19)	SFY20 (6/30/20)	SFY21 (6/30/21)	SFY22 (6/30/22)	SFY23 (6/30/23)
1. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY. Number of families exiting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with employment. <i>Reference: G1, Obj1, Strat1</i>	1,370; <i>approx. 114 families per month</i>	1,294; <i>approx. 107 families per month</i>	1,037; <i>approx. 86 families per month</i>	712; <i>approx. 59 families per month</i>	559; <i>approx. 47 families per month</i>	1,145; <i>approx. 95 families per month</i>	743 <i>approx. 62 families per month</i>
2. TANF PROGRAM. The impact due to the pandemic. Average number of applications per month. <i>Reference: G1, Obj1, Strat1</i>	N/A	N/A	1,342	1,518	1,225	1,147	1,020
a. Average number of approvals per month [also convert average number of approvals to %]	N/A	N/A	295 22.0%	441 29.0%	349 28.4%	304 26.5%	193 18.9%
b. Average number of denials per month [also convert average number of denials to %].	N/A	N/A	568 42.3%	608 40.0%	509 41.5%	878 76.6%	956 93.7%
i. Percentage of applications denied due to income	N/A	N/A	27.8%	34.9%	35.2%	30.1%	22.3%
ii. Percentage of applications denied due to failure to provide required documents	N/A	N/A	6.6%	8.0%	26.5%	37.4%	10.7%
iii. Percentage of applications denied for other reasons.	N/A	N/A	65.6%	57.1%	38.3%	32.5%	67%
c. Average Work Participation Rate (WPR) pre-pandemic (FFY 2020) compared to the WPR during pandemic (March 2020 – September 2020 and FFY 2021)	N/A	N/A	28.8% All-Family and 45.8% Two-Parent (FFY 2019)	Pre-Pandemic: 18.2% All-Family & 26.4% Two-Parent (2 nd quarter of FFY 2020)	12.19% All-Family and 8.94% Two-Parent (2 nd quarter of FFY 2021) (March 2020-September 2020 and FFY 2021)	12.6% All-Family & 17.4% Two-Parent (as of Q2 FFY 2022)	14.6% All-Family & 21.6% Two-Parent (as of Q2 FFY 2023)
3. EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES. Number of individuals receiving First to Work (FTW) and Employment & Training (E&T) support benefits and services. <i>Reference: G1, Obj1, Strat1</i>							
a. First to Work (FTW) Program <i>The number of participants who received support and benefit services may not equal to the total number of participants because participants may receive multiple support services.</i>	4,129; <i>education (93), work-related</i>	3,523; <i>education (57), work-related</i>	3,081; <i>education (54), work-related</i>	2,898; <i>education (35), work-</i>	2,420; <i>education (29),</i>	1,944; <i>education (23),</i>	1,926; <i>education (22);</i>

STATEWIDE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INDICATORS	SFY17 (6/30/17)	SFY18 (6/30/18)	SFY19 (6/30/19)	SFY20 (6/30/20)	SFY21 (6/30/21)	SFY22 (6/30/22)	SFY23 (6/30/23)
	(512), medical (4), transportation (3,634), child care subsidies (1,208)	(353), medical (6), transportation (3,130), child care subsidies (867)	(393), medical (2), transportation (2,784), child care subsidies (613)	related (819), medical (3), transportation (2,427), child care subsidies (451)	work- related (1,060), medical (0), transportation (1,605), child care subsidies (329)	work- related (296), medical (7), transportation (1,320), child care subsidies (298)	work- related (236); medical (1); transportation (1,451); child care subsidies (216)
b. Employment & Training (E&T) Program <i>The number of participants who received support and benefit services may not equal to the total number of participants because participants may receive multiple support services.</i>	405; education (68), work- related (95), transportation (341), other (2)	434; education (163), work- related (68), transportation (374), other (4)	403; education (191), work- related (66), transportation (355)	385; education (149), work- related (68), transportation (335)	376; education (142), Work- related (60), Transportation (271)	382; education (158), Work- related (44), Transportation (322)	326; education (138), Work- related (79), Transportation (267)
4. JOB RETENTION. Number of individuals receiving employment support benefits/services who remained employed for 30, 60, 90, and more than 90 days. <i>Reference: G1, Obj1, Strat1</i>	1,210 total participants employed	870 total participants employed	726 total participants employed	536 total participants employed	921 total participants employed	530 total participants employed	452 total participants employed
a. 1-30 days	133	107	89	44	56	51	50
b. 31-60 days	131	91	89	44	57	63	47
c. 61-90 days	129	108	84	37	89	41	44
d. >90 days	817	564	464	411	719	375	311
5. WAGE PROGRESSION. Number and percentage of individuals receiving First to Work (FTW) services who may have experienced increased wages, no changes in their wages, or decreased wages. <i>Notes: Percentages are approximate. State Minimum Wage increased incrementally during the period. The period for wage progression is 4 years i.e. June 2013 is the baseline to measure wage progression for June, 2017. Reference: G1, Obj1, Strat1</i>	1,335 total participants employed	1,139 total participants employed	1,976 total participants employed	1,542 total participants employed	1,704 total participants employed	1,765 total participants employed	1,258 total participants employed
a. Percentage who may have experienced increases in their wages	16%	21%	40%	37%	30%	32%	30.21%
b. Percentage who may have seen no changes in their wages	80%	76%	54%	55%	65%	62%	63.91%
c. Percentage who may have experienced decrease in their wage	4%	3%	6%	8%	5%	6%	5.88%
6. CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL READINESS. Number of children enrolled in Preschool Open Doors (POD). <i>Reference: G1, Obj2, Strat1</i>	1,659 (5/31/17)	1,590 (5/31/18)	1,416 (5/31/19)	1,408 (5/31/20)	628 (5/31/21)	620 (5/31/22)	816 (5/31/23)
7. HEALTHCARE COVERAGE. Number of people who are enrolled with Medicaid. <i>Reference: G1, Obj3, Strat3</i>	361,929 April, 2017	354,245 April, 2018	342,428 April, 2019	350,194 April, 2020	422,492 April, 2021	445,815 April, 2022	463,028 April, 2023
8. CHILD HEALTH. Percentage of children who received an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) visit. <i>Reference: G1, Obj3, Strat1</i>	98% (data from Federal FY 2016)	100% (data from Federal FY 2017)	100% (data from Federal FY 2018)	100% (data from Federal FY 2019)	100% (data from Federal FY 2020)	100% (data from Federal FY 2021)	72% (data from Federal FY 2022)
9. CHILD AND ADULT SAFETY. <i>Reference: G1, Obj3, Strat1</i>							
a. Number and percentage of victims (vulnerable adults) with two or more confirmed abuses within a 12-month period.	7/149, 4.7%	1/99, 1%	3/126, 2.4%	4/90, 4.4%	1/75, 1.3%	1/62, 1.6%	0/45, 0%
b. Number and percentage of foster children who have stable placement.	1061/1203, 88.2%	1028/1265, 81.3%	1096/1299, 84.4%	1036/1191, 87%	890/1047, 85%	864/1030, 84%	636/757 84%
10. HOUSING STABILITY. <i>Reference: G1, Obj4, Strat1</i>							
a. Number of homeless individuals statewide. <i>Note: Numbers are approximate and are based on self-reports.</i>	7,220	6,530	6,448	7,501	N/A	5973	6223
b. Number of individuals served by the HPP Program, SHEG Program, Outreach Program, Emergency Shelter, or Transitional Shelter.	19,382	16,544	14,941	13,448	10,887	10,084	10,112
c. Number of individuals who exited to permanent housing from the HPP Program, SHEG Program, Outreach Program, Emergency Shelter, or Transitional Shelter.	5,189	5,000	5,595	4,963	3,261	2525	4125
d. Number of households served at the Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kakaako. <i>Note: The FAC opened in September 2016, so data is measured from 9/1/16 to 10/1/17. FAC-K closed in February 2022. The second FAC in Puna started in SFY20 through Act 209, SLH 2018.</i>	54	53	55	45	26	17	N/A
				37	47	33	40

STATEWIDE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INDICATORS	SFY17 (6/30/17)	SFY18 (6/30/18)	SFY19 (6/30/19)	SFY20 (6/30/20)	SFY21 (6/30/21)	SFY22 (6/30/22)	SFY23 (6/30/23)
e. Percentage of households at the FAC in Kakaako who were successfully housed in permanent housing. <i>Note: The FAC opened in September 2016, so data is measured from 9/1/16 to 10/1/17.</i> The second FAC in Puna started in SFY20 through Act 209, SLH 2018.	17/30, 56.7%	26/42, 61.9%	18/41, 43.9%	17/39, 43.59%	7/19, 36.84%	13/17, 76.47%	N/A
				15/30, 50%	19/39, 48.72%	5/26, 19.23%	21/32 66%
11. FOOD ACCESS. <i>Reference: G1, Obj5, Strat1</i>							
a. Number of individuals receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.	166,923 Monthly Average FY17	164,746 Monthly Average FY18	158,628 Monthly Average FY19	159,734 Monthly Average FY20	190,791 Monthly Average FY21	178,486 Monthly Average FY22	156,967 Monthly Average FY23
b. Percentage of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications processed in a timely manner.	98%	97%	97%	96%	91%	79%	80%

Appendix 2 – DHS Maui & Hawaii Island Wildfires Frequently Asked Questions (updated as of 12/4/23)

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAUI & HAWAII ISLAND WILDFIRES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Message from DHS Director Cathy Betts](#)

The Department of Human Services (DHS) continues our commitment to Hawaii's residents following the August wildfires by providing vital benefits and services for individuals and families with aloha.

During emergency management incidents like volcanic eruptions, flooding, COVID-19, and now the wildfires, DHS staff support the State's response while continuing to deliver the array of human services statewide.

I want to thank our team on the ground who tirelessly worked at the outset to get displaced families into hotel rooms and donated Airbnbs as part of its role with the State's Emergency Support Function #6, mass care and feeding. Program staff also stood up a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) benefits effort, assisted survivors at the disaster recovery centers, partnered to establish the Pu'u honua o Nene temporary shelter, implemented a TANF financial assistance program for income-eligible families with dependent children, and most recently spearheaded the State's successful application for FEMA's Disaster Case Management Program grant. The Med-QUEST division obtained waivers to pause the COVID-19 Medicaid redetermination to ensure beneficiaries maintained their health care coverage as DHS directed all hands to support the emergency response. The wildfires personally impacted many of our staff and their families, yet they still volunteered to assist other families in securing housing, access to healthcare, and financial assistance.

As DHS staff continue their work with innovation and grit, I have profound gratitude for the staff. Together, DHS will remain at the center of case management services for all Maui wildfire survivors as they rebuild their lives up country and in Lahaina while maintaining equitable access for all individuals and families needing services and benefits.

Contents

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (DIR)	47
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	47
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	49
DHS launched the \$2.5M Rental Assistance Program with GEM	50
3. What are the results of actions taken?	51
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	51
BENEFIT EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (BESSD)	52
Note: DHS BESSD is the primary oversight agency of child care providers and distributes child care subsidies.	52
CHILD CARE REGULATION PROGRAM OFFICE (CCRPO)	52
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	52
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	53
3. What are the results of actions taken?	54
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	54
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM OFFICE (CCSPO)	54
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	54
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	54
3. What are the results of actions taken?	55
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	55
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE (FAPO) – Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD), General Assistance (GA), and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (See TANF/TAONF discussion below)	55
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	55
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	56
3. What are the results of actions taken?	56
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	57
HOMELESS PROGRAM OFFICE (HPO)	57
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	57

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	57
3. What are the results of actions taken?	58
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	58
STATEWIDE BRANCH (SB)	58
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	58
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	58
3. What are the results of actions taken?	59
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	59
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE (SNAPO)	60
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	60
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	60
3. What are the results of actions taken?	62
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	62
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM OFFICE (TANFPO)	62
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	62
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	62
3. What are the results of actions taken?	63
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	63
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)	63
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	64
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	64
3. What are the results of actions taken?	64
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	64
MED-QUEST DIVISION (MQD)	64
1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?	64
2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?	65
3. What are the results of actions taken?	65
4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?	66

<u>SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION (SSD)</u>	66
<u>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (CWS)</u>	66
1. <u>How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?</u>	66
2. <u>What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?</u>	66
3. <u>What are the results of actions taken?</u>	66
4. <u>What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?</u>	66
<u>ADULT PROJECTIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (APCS)</u>	67
1. <u>How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?</u>	67
2. <u>What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?</u>	67
3. <u>What are the results of actions taken?</u>	67
4. <u>What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?</u>	67
<u>HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY (HPHA)</u>	68
1. <u>How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?</u>	68
2. <u>What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?</u>	68
3. <u>What are the results of actions taken?</u>	68
4. <u>What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?</u>	69
<u>STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS (SOHHS)</u>	69
1. <u>How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?</u>	69
2. <u>What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?</u>	69
3. <u>What are the results of actions taken?</u>	70
4. <u>What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?</u>	70

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (DIR)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

Governor Green immediately mobilized the DHS Director's Office to support the mass care of Maui residents and visitors impacted by the wildfires. Director Betts led the response, assisted by Deputies Campos and Speer and DHS program staff. On August 10, 2023, the Directors team and Maui based staff assisted survivors at the War Memorial and other shelters transition into

the American Red Cross' Non-Congregate Shelter (ARC NCS) program and the State's Airbnb program. As part of the overall response, the Director's Office staff activated the State's Emergency Support Function #6 to facilitate mass care and feeding discussion amongst Federal, State, and County agencies and community providers.

DHS responded to the call to devise an option for the pre-disaster homeless individuals exiting the ARC NCS at the end of FEMA's "safe-harbor" period on September 29, 2023. In partnership with the Department of Transportation, the Oregon Emergency Management Office in Hawaii to assist the State's response, and community provider Project Vision, with a two-week lead time, DHS quickly stood up *Pu'uohonua o Nēnē*, the temporary field shelter for up to 150 individuals who were experiencing homelessness pre-disaster and other Maui residents who needed a viable option for temporary shelter. Maui residents at *Pu'uohonua o Nēnē* receive wrap-around services to address permanent shelter and housing needs. As of November 29, 2023, *Pu'uohonua o Nēnē* is sheltering 149 individuals.

The DHS Director's Office applied for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Case Management Program Grant (DCMP) on behalf of the State. DCMP will provide specially trained case managers to all willing survivors to help assess and address their immediate and long-term needs through a disaster recovery plan. DCMP will assist with referrals to available resources and services, decision-making priorities, guidance, and tools. The DCMP case managers will work with the newly organized community-based Long Term Recovery Group to address individuals' unmet needs. DHS applied for and received the FEMA DCMP within 100 days – one of the fastest DCMP application-to-award process. The DCMP will help the State provide needed services to those impacted in developing recovery plans to recover, heal, and restore their lives.

To prepare for ourselves and the community to implement the FEMA DCMP, DHS and ARC set up a 90-day ARC-funded interim DCM program to begin training Maui-based disaster case managers with three community-based organizations while ironing out the details of the FEMA-funded program. The interim DCM program began working with clients on November 27.

The DHS Director's Office also leads the State's Social Services Recovery Support Function (SSRSF). The SSRSF aims to restore and improve social services networks to promote the community's resilience, health, independence, and well-being pre- and post-disaster. The SSRSF implements the federal framework to support locally-led recovery efforts focused on human services, behavioral health, and education.

The DHS Director's Office implemented communications, public outreach, and media disaster response. On August 9, 2023, DHS updated its website to include Wildfire response messaging. DHS Director's Office also created and distributed press releases and digital marketing materials to provide vital information to the public.

The DHS Director's Office needed to establish data-sharing agreements between FEMA, HIEMA, and ARC to facilitate individual-level understanding. Data quality has been an ongoing issue.

To address the immediate needs and magnitude of the disaster, the Director's Office reached out to our federal partners with the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR), Administration for Children & Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for expertise and guidance. OHSEPR met with DHS leadership, provided planning and other insights on the human services response in disasters of this magnitude, and provided key contacts and information to other communities impacted by wildfires. To obtain expertise and build administrative capacity, the Director's Office worked with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) to request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to request emergency management personnel from the Oregon Office of Resilience & Emergency Management (OREM) and to meet a request for field showers. OREM and EMAC personnel from Alaska provided invaluable insights, assistance, and presence on Maui to meet Maui residents' immediate needs for shelter and DHS' overall recovery efforts.

In the immediate days following the wildfires, DHS staff at all levels again were stretched thin and somehow found the extra gear to persevere and ramp up additional services to respond to the immediate needs of those impacted by the August wildfires. To add capacity to oversee the FEMA DCMP, the DHS Director's Office created a special project to hire critical DCMP executive-level and administrative staff to oversee the DCMP.

For the 2024 session, we request authorization to expend federal funds and additional general fund appropriations to support the DCMP and other expenditures that FEMA's grant award may not cover. We are also proposing a bill authorizing DHS to provide disaster recovery services beyond an emergency proclamation for disaster survivors who may continue to need assistance. The bill also establishes a permanent emergency management program within the Director's Office and a dedicated emergency management officer position to improve DHS emergency management preparedness and capacity and work with our contracted providers to build capacity and overall emergency management preparedness for more resilient communities. Notably, the DHS Emergency Management Program Administrator will develop data-sharing agreements and other memorandums of agreement to identify individual needs and reduce service delivery delays.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

DHS co-facilitates with HIEMA, State Emergency Support Function-6 (SESF-6), mass care and feeding. SESF-6 includes representation from Federal, State, and County agencies, volunteer organizations, and other community-based organizations. SESF-6 is an information hub where government and community organizations share information and insights to address unmet needs.

To address immediate shelter needs, DHS and Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) placed families, some with special needs, into donated Airbnbs and worked alongside staff from the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) to register survivors into

NCS hotels. As Airbnb contracts are ending, DHS is also supporting the transition of eligible households into the NCS program.

On December 1, 2023, with GEM, DHS launched the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) to assist survivors who are not eligible for FEMA rental assistance. RAP will work to secure housing for up to 12 months for eligible households by connecting them with Airbnb or through the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation's (HHFDC) Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program.

Director's Office staff participate in meetings led by the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) and disseminates mental health and support resources to support professionals. The Director's Office works with local and national partners to organize sessions to support in coping with compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and secondary trauma utilizing a trauma-informed approach. Support group debriefing sessions will start with generous time and expertise donations. The mid-to-long-term goal is to continue offering debriefing opportunities while offering culturally responsive healing space for deeper conversations.

The Director's Office recognizes the importance of timely disaster response messaging in multiple languages to ensure that the survivors have vital information on the available DHS resources. DHS works with the Office of Language Access, FEMA, and several SESF-6 community organizations that work with Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other immigrant and migrant communities to meet translation and interpretation needs. Reviewing materials includes ensuring messaging is culturally relevant and trauma-informed to encourage help-seeking and avoid retraumatizing.

The Director's Office communications efforts resulted in accurate and valuable information shared by multiple entities, including the Governor's office, Maui County Mayor's office, state legislators, FEMA, HIEMA, ARC, non-profit organizations, media outlets, and community advocates.

The items below include actions and messages shared with the media, public, and community stakeholders:

- A message of compassion and support for those impacted by the wildfires;
- Med-QUEST Division (MQD) paused all terminations and eligibility renewals;
- Benefit Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD) authorized replacement benefits for SNAP households who lost food purchased with their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during the recent wildfires on Maui and Hawaii island;
- SNAP Hot Foods Waiver (extended three times, most recently until 12/31/23);
- BESSD worked with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop and distribute Disaster SNAP benefits for eligible survivors who do not receive regular SNAP;
- BESSD Child Care Programs Office (CCPO) expanded child care resources to families;
- Direct assistance to families to access Airbnb and other housing assistance;
- The Director's Office partnered to stand up the Pu'uhonua o Nēnē - a temporary field shelter to provide wrap-around services for individuals and couples experiencing homelessness pre-disaster to recover from the Maui Wildfires; and
- DHS launched the \$2.5M Rental Assistance Program with GEM.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

The actions of the Director's Office positively assisted Maui wildfire survivors to find shelter:

- Between August 12th and 21st, DHS staff transitioned **996** individuals out of the congregate shelter at the War Memorial to the NCS – ARC Hotel program;
- Between August 15th and 25th, DHS staff set up the State Airbnb program at the War Memorial and then Lahaina Gateway and ultimately transitioned **228 households/626 individuals** from congregate and other emergency shelters, including the War Memorial, to alternative housing in the State-Airbnb program;
- Between September 12th and 30th, DHS staff secured a 30-day Airbnb extension for **229 households/545 individuals**; and
- Stood up the Pu'uhonua o Nene field shelter to support 50 individuals' immediate shelter needs as they were required to leave the NCS program at the end of the "Safe Harbor" period on September 29, 2023; the field shelter has been near capacity at 149 for several weeks.

Although the Social Services Recovery Support Function (SSRSF) and Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) are just starting, the Director's Office anticipates that some 7,000 households/18,000 individuals will receive the necessary services to recover, restore, and heal.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

To support the Disaster Case Management Program and additional benefit programs, DHS needs additional administrative staff, fiscal, and IT resources, considering the relief efforts are expected to last multiple years and will be multi-pronged. DHS needs dedicated emergency staff and will propose a bill to establish a permanent emergency management office and an emergency management program administrator to plan, train, and develop data sharing and memorandum of agreement and build the department's expertise and capacity to respond to future disasters and incidents. For the State Fiscal Year (FY) 24, DHS may require emergency appropriations to address budget shortfalls due to expenditures to support the Maui Wildfire response. DHS executive budget requests for FY25 include appropriations to support the second year of the DCMP and the continuing needs of survivors

Significantly, the DCMP will provide intensive disaster case management for survivors of the Maui wildfires. To support this three-to-four-year effort or longer, DHS created a special project to add multiple temporary exempt positions to oversee the proposed FEMA \$17.2M DCMP grant. This team will maintain and build DHS emergency management functions and capacity.

The DCMP will provide case management and navigation assistance for all Maui fire survivors that we currently estimate to be approximately 10,000 (including 200 individuals who were pre-disaster unsheltered, as of 9/27/2023, more than 7,700 individuals in the Non-congregate Shelter (NCS) Hotels, and more than 1,200 in Airbnbs).

The DHS Director's Office has administrative oversight over the Pu'uhonua o Nēnē temporary field shelter. The current plan is for the temporary field shelter to remain operational for 12

months. In early FY25, the program will transition to a Kauhale or other permanent housing solution developed by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the State Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). At that time, the program oversight will transfer from the Director's Office HMS 904 to SOHHS HMS 777.

To continue assisting survivors in their recovery, DHS requires additional fiscal resources, especially to meet the needs of those individuals and households who are not eligible for FEMA or other federal disaster assistance due to their citizenship, were uninsured or underinsured, and for those who were experiencing homelessness before the August wildfires. Given the uncertainty of when rebuilding may commence, we anticipate many homeowners will continue to be in temporary rental housing and require additional resources. As human services providers, we know that housing instability and overcrowding may negatively impact all aspects of life, including health and well-being, education, employment, and family resilience. With additional resources, DHS aims to reduce the added stressors of the recovery process and avoid adding more trauma.

DHS will also need staff to continue to build partnerships and work with multiple government agencies, community advocates, and providers so that the DCMP has referral services with the expertise to meet survivors' needs. DHS will need staff to maintain fiscal integrity and data sharing.

BENEFIT EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (BESSD)

BESSD's statewide operations continued to serve Maui residents during the immediate aftermath. All Maui offices closed on Wednesday, August 9, through Sunday, August 13, 2023, in the immediate aftermath of the wildfires, and BESSD Maui staff were directly impacted by the loss of their homes. However, Maui residents could access DHS services via BESSD's Statewide Branch Support Desk Call Center and other open DHS statewide offices. With technology and business processes improved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BESSD's statewide operations enabled staff from other BESSD locations to serve Maui clients by phone. BESSD staff could complete work on applications virtually to continue services without significant interruption.

Note: DHS BESSD is the primary oversight agency of child care providers and distributes child care subsidies.

CHILD CARE REGULATION PROGRAM OFFICE (CCRPO)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The Maui wildfire resulted in the permanent closure of six (6) preschool centers, two (2) infant/toddler centers, one (1) family child care home, and one (1) before/after school facility in the Lahaina area. The loss of these providers equates to 272 regulated child care seats. The fire also destroyed the homes of several staff members of child care facilities.

Post-fire, several providers have expressed interest in increasing their capacity to serve children who the wildfire has displaced. Others have also inquired about how to become child care providers, and some have proposed providing child care in non-traditional settings such as outdoor spaces. The Central Maui licensing staff have supported the community of providers directly or indirectly impacted by the fires and have been working with center directors and family child care home providers to develop solutions to build more child care capacity. Licensing staff have also conducted several investigations of alleged illegal child care as individuals in the community try to provide child care services for families without completing the requirements to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of children in their care.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

CCRPO and its contracted provider, People Attentive To Children (PATCH), shared a list of child care options for families affected by the fires. The [list](#) (please see below) is regularly updated. The list includes contact information, program ages, address, and phone number. PATCH, the State's designated Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, worked with licensed and registered providers to determine who is still operating and providing care.

As of 8/21/23:

*This list is being updated on a regular basis and contains contact information, ages the program accepts, address, and phone number. It is accessible to any Maui families who have been affected by the recent fires.						
Parents can call PATCH's referral lines for further assistance at (808) 961-3169						
Many of PATCH's services are supported by, and in partnership with the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services.						
Name of School	Address	City (for FCC providers)	Provider Type	Ages the program accepts	Phone Number	Openings
Akamai Kids Club, Inc	100 Kulanihako Street	Kihel	GCC	3-5years 11months	(808) 893-0303	10
Doris Ann & John Akana		Makawao	FCC	newborn-5yrs	(808) 288-9337	2 LM
Aloha Kai Academy Inc	954 Baldwin Ave	Paia	GCC	12mos-5yrs	(808) 283-3220	4
Christ The King Child Development Center	211 Kaulawahine St.	Kahului	GCC	3-5 years	(808) 877-3587	3 LM
Layne Couper (Tiffany)		Kihel	FCC	2 mos - 6 yrs	(808) 276-5142	2 LM
Lizeth Coratibo		Wailuku	FCC	1- 5 y	(808) 264-9377	2 Sept 1st 1 opening ft
Melanie and Steven Gaspar		Kihel	FCC	2 mos - 10 yrs	(808) 666-1750	2 LM
Benita & Jonathan David Deguimo		Kula	FCC	2 1/2-5yrs	(808) 250-2829	2 LM
Farah Rondeau		Wailuku	FCC	1-2yrs	(808) 866-7062	1 ?
Wailuku Hongwanji Preschool	144 Kaniela Street	Wailuku	GCC	4-5 yo	(808) 244-9545	0
Tanya Rust		Wailuku	FCC	1 mos - 13 yo	(808) 244-1574	1 ?
Verna Barcai		Wailuku	FCC	2 mos - 3 yo	(808) 357-2055	1
St. Anthony Preschool	1627-B Mill Street	Wailuku	GCC	3-4 yo	(808) 242-9024	1 ?
Malama Montessori Donna Adams Bence	577 Omaopio Road	KULA	GCC	24 mos-5 yo	(808) 269-4429	4 LM
Brandi Mawae		Makawao	FCC	15mos-5yrs	(808) 793-7267	3 begin 8/21
Cecilia Santos Bras		Pukalani	FCC	infant-4yrs	(808) 357-7948	1 begin 8/21
Haleakala Waldorf After School Program	4160 L. Kula Road	Kula	GCC	2 1/2-5yrs	(808) 878-2511	2
Dana and Marco Graziani		Makawao	FCC	18 mos -13 yo	(808) 359-8881	1
Adriana Craig and Christopher Landon Craig		Kula	FCC	1-5yrs	(808) 359-3385	3
Providers listed above are registered and licensed by DHS						
Resources:						
Wildfires - Child Care Aware® of America						
Power Outages & Food Safety - Child Care Aware® of America						
Go vs. no go (childcareaware.org)						
https://dod.hawaii.gov/hisma/august-2023-wildfires/						

CCRPO staff conducted three (3) visits to Maui in October and November 2023. During these visits, the CCRPO and the Assistant Division Administrator met with providers to offer support and discuss ways that DHS can assist in recovering and rebuilding child care and strategize how to expand child care capacity.

One proposal discussed with Maui child care providers is the potential to operate a demonstration project under the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) as a temporary solution to increase child care capacity until a more permanent solution is soluble. Applying to be licensed

to operate a demonstration project is an existing provision in the HAR that may allow a new or existing provider to operate a family child care home, group child care center, group child care home, or infant and toddler center that may not be able to meet all licensing rules, as long as the health and safety of children is maintained.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

The Central Maui licensing unit is currently working with one applicant to be licensed to operate a demonstration project in an enclosed outdoor facility. The applicant is working with the County to gain approvals from the zoning and fire department required by Mayor Bissen's 5th emergency proclamation. The proposed licensed capacity is to serve approximately 20, 3- and 4-year-old children.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Dedicated funds to help in the recovery and rebuilding of child care centers and family child care homes will help providers who lost their centers and homes in the wildfire. Additional funds to assist existing providers with the space to expand their capacity would be an excellent resource for increasing their capacity to serve more children. Finally, additional staff and administrative support of the Central Maui licensing unit would ensure that the critical office can maintain its operations and keep up with its daily responsibilities.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM OFFICE (CCSPO)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

In addition to being displaced, impacted Maui residents needed to find new child care arrangements, and residents who lost income due to destruction or inability to reach their job sites now had to apply for available child care subsidies.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

CCSPO applied for temporary federal waivers for extraordinary circumstances to obtain flexibility in meeting federal Child Care Development Fund requirements. Waivers include allowing interim child care arrangements while the family's usual provider has ceased operations. Payment to more than one child care provider for the same child based on enrollment supports the impacted family's need to secure alternate child care arrangements and the provider who suffered a direct impact on their business.

In addition, CCSPO issued temporary 2023 Emergency Rules Relating to Child Care Payments that set aside many of the eligibility requirements for impacted families and allowed for expanded eligibility during a special application period. The temporary changes included no

income restrictions, no activity requirements, no department co-payments, and allowing extra time for missing documentation.

CCSPO staff also provided clarification that emergency financial assistance received from FEMA, ARC, the Maui United Way, the Maui People's Fund, and other government and local organizations are exempt from being counted as income for purposes of child care subsidy if the assistance is provided in response to emergency proclamations and disaster declarations associated with the Maui wildfires.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

With the waivers and emergency rules, impacted families would be eligible for 12 months of child care assistance. The department also approved presumptive payments for families who could not provide documentation to allow families extra time to request replacement documents lost, destroyed, or inaccessible due to the fires. At the close of the special application period on October 31, 2023, 110 Maui households applied for child care subsidy assistance under the emergency rules.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

To support continued recovery efforts, DHS must focus on recruiting and retaining permanent child care staff to process applications. The department is ending its contract with a private organization to administer the Child Care Connections program; DHS is transitioning the program to be entirely administered by BESSD eligibility staff by December 2023.

The significant challenge is restoring child care facilities, including increasing the child care workforce in Maui. A continued partnership with the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency will help families needing assistance securing interim or permanent child care providers as additional facilities become available or when existing programs add seats.

Lastly, information system enhancements for the online child care applications would streamline the application process and provide greater access to families to submit verification documents. These enhancements require financial resources to ensure a robust system to process applications and documents.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE (FAPO) – Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD), General Assistance (GA), and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (See TANF/TAONF discussion below)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The AABD and GA programs are State-funded financial assistance programs that provide some financial assistance to Hawaii residents with a disability or who are 65 years of age or older and do not qualify for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Temporary Assistance

for Other Needy Families (TAONF) or Social Security Administration financial benefits programs. The AABD program covers residents 65 years and older, under age 65, who are permanently disabled or have been certified blind, and who do not have minor dependents. The GA provides cash assistance to residents 18-65 years who do not have minor dependents and have a temporary physical or mental condition that prevents gainful employment of at least 30 hours per week. At this time, there was no measurable impact on the AABD and G.A. programs as there were only 6 AABD clients and 39 GA clients living in Lahaina and Kula, and only 5 AABD clients and 70 GA clients residing in adjacent zip codes at the time of the wildfire.

In addition, FAPO required its contracted disability evaluator, Cyrca, to report any unusual contact with Maui GA clients having difficulty keeping evaluation appointments, and to date, Cyrca has not reported unusual activities.

DHS rebranded the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program and the Hawai'i Home Water Assistance Program (H-HEAP and H-HWAP). The contracted provider for this program in Maui County is Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO). Due to the wildfire and MEO's role in launching the Maui Relief TANF Program (MRTP), MEO has experienced delays in processing the June Energy Credit applications for H-HEAP, which were initially due on August 31, 2023.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

FAPO instructed Cyrca, the contracted disability evaluator, to report any unusual contact with Maui GA recipients and applicants reporting difficulty with keeping evaluation appointments; to date, Cyrca has not provided any reports.

FAPO staff also provided clarification to recipients that emergency financial assistance received from FEMA, ARC, the Maui United Way, the Maui People's Fund, and other government and local organizations are exempt from being counted as income for purposes of child care subsidy if the assistance is provided in response to emergency proclamations and disaster declarations associated with the Maui wildfire.

In addition, H-HEAP and H-HWAP, through its partner MEO, will implement disaster plans to include providing generators, gas tanks, gas, propane, bottled water, and water delivery to those displaced from their residences or had their water compromised because of the wildfires. Households with reduced income directly and indirectly from the wildfires may also be eligible for H-HEAP and H-HWAP bill payment assistance.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

Households receiving GA and AABD were able to receive emergency assistance related to the Maui wildfire from FEMA, American Red Cross, Maui United Way, and other government and

local organizations without the disaster assistance being counted as income and disqualifying them from eligibility for G.A. and AABD.

In addition, the H-HEAP Coordinator met with MEO, Hawaiian Electric, and the Maui County Department of Water Supply to discuss the initial situation and begin developing the disaster relief efforts. These meetings are ongoing.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Staffing at the operational level in the Statewide Branch (SB) is critical to ensure continued access to GA and AABD benefits for impacted households on Maui. BESSD aims to establish management positions related to Business Process Reengineering, Call Center management, and outreach for vulnerable households (e.g., persons experiencing homelessness, homebound seniors, etc.).

In addition, H-HWAP and H-HEAP are limited to funds received under their Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)2023 and 2024 grants, which are needed to fund regular programs and disaster assistance. Due to these limitations, coordination with other emergency relief programs will be critical to maximize the limited resources available and prevent duplication of effort. Due to increased demand, the H-HWAP and H-HEAP contractor MEO may need additional support with processing applications.

HOMELESS PROGRAM OFFICE (HPO)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) administers contracts for homeless services and does not provide direct services.

The Maui wildfire destroyed the Ka Hale A Ke Ola (KHAKO) emergency shelter in Lahaina. The loss of the KHAKO Lahaina shelter reduced 137 emergency shelter spaces available for Maui residents experiencing homelessness. Before the fires, the KHAKO Westside shelter provided 21 dorm spaces and 116 larger units.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

HPO is working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to finalize a grant agreement for \$1,339,404 in Emergency Solutions Grant – Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH) funds. HUD allocated ESG-RUSH funds in response to President Biden's major disaster declaration dated August 10, 2023, for the Hawaii Wildfires. ESG-RUSH funds intend to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or families or individuals at risk of homelessness in areas impacted by a major disaster whose needs are not otherwise

serviced or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs, including the FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

On October 9, 2023, DHS posted a public notice on the proposed use of ESG-RUSH grant funds. HPO is actively working with HUD to finalize a grant agreement and, following the execution of the grant agreement, will select a homeless service provider to administer ESG-RUSH services.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Coordination is needed to align the different funding streams and programs to address housing, such as FEMA housing assistance and philanthropic funds, to maximize the support provided for wildfire survivors. In addition, there is a lack of affordable rental housing inventory in Maui, which will impact the ability to house or re-house displaced individuals and families.

STATEWIDE BRANCH (SB)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The BESSD Statewide Branch (SB) oversees frontline operations for the Division, including eligibility for financial and SNAP benefits, administering child care subsidy and licensing, and First to Work case management for the TANF/TAONF programs.

Following the Maui wildfires, applications increased for SNAP and financial assistance in Maui County. In addition, SB recognized the need to prioritize the review of Maui applications while maintaining adequate focus for statewide operations for the other three counties.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

The Statewide Branch:

- Supported outreach efforts on Maui led by the Director's office and Hawaii's congressional delegation to support individuals transitioning into non-congregate shelters and assist in signing up for SNAP and other DHS benefits.
- Processed SNAP replacement benefits for food loss from August 14, 2023, through September 15, 2023, for existing SNAP recipients in Maui and West Hawaii. The replacement benefits were available for households who experienced food loss because of the wildfire, or due to power outage and food spoilage resulting from the wildfire.
- Worked with the SNAP Office (SNAPO) on the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) waiver to push forward annual renewals and Six-Month Report Forms (SMRFs) for recipient households for August 2023, September 2023, and October 2023.

- Worked with our IT contractor to create processing queues in our workload management tool to identify and expedite the processing of benefits relating to the wildfires.
 - a. Emergency Assistance queues expedited the processing of Maui applications for SNAP and Financial Assistance,
 - b. D-SNAP queues allowed assignment, monitoring, and management of the work for the D-SNAP event held by DHS on September 18 through September 23, 2023.
- Worked with the DHS PIO and our contractor to create communications on our DHS Website, Public Assistance Information System (PAIS), and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems to ensure that the public had the most current information available.
- Worked with BESSD Staff Development Office (SDO) to quickly prepare and conduct training to provide staff with the necessary information to determine eligibility for emergency services.
- Deployed 40 staff members to Maui from other locations to support D-SNAP operations on Maui from September 18 through September 23, 2023.
 - a. SB staff volunteered to fly from around the State to Maui on September 17, 2023, to process the 6-day D-SNAP application process and returned home on September 24, 2023.
 - i. Staff worked tirelessly to assist affected households in applying for D-SNAP benefits;
 - ii. Staff were empathetic, patient, and understanding and maintained professionalism while walking residents through to determine eligibility.
 - b. An additional 80 SB staff provided back-office support for D-SNAP and D-SNAP assistance in other neighbor island offices to assist Maui residents who had already relocated.
- Engaged with Maui and West Hawaii staff who were directly or indirectly affected by the Maui and Hawaii island wildfires and are working with the Director's office and Human Resources to provide trauma support services for Maui staff and for those staff who traveled to Maui to assist with the D-SNAP effort. Throughout the wildfire response, SB has remained mindful of this incident's emotional and physical impacts and recognizes the hard work and compassion that all staff demonstrated during these challenging times.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

As a result of the changes to our operations, we processed the following:

- 5,553 Maui applications since August 8, 2023, through the middle of October 2023.
- We assisted in the SNAP Replacement Application process from August 14 through September 15, 2023.
- 3,677 D-SNAP applications from Maui residents.
- 1,940 calls from Maui residents during the same period.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

BESSD will continue to need eligibility staff to assist Maui residents to apply and be determined for SNAP and financial assistance, until peoples' lives return to some normalcy and the Maui economy begins to show signs of recovery. Hiring more eligibility staff is essential to the

statewide effort to timely and accurately process our incoming applications, renewals, and other work. Some of these efforts will include outreach to assist people in their communities instead of requiring them to travel long distances to our processing centers for assistance. Other efforts will be to ensure that we have enough eligibility staff answering calls in the Statewide Call Center daily.

To assist the Statewide Branch in oversight of these three areas for the immediate and long-term future, we are working to establish three manager positions: Business Processing Reengineering (BPR) Manager, Call Center Manager, and Outreach Manager. These three positions will be the day-to-day oversight for these areas under the Statewide Branch administration, ensuring we continue to assist where needed and apply appropriate human resources in each area. When a future disaster significantly impacts Hawaii residents, these three managers will work together to coordinate and streamline SB operational response efforts that maximize resources and staffing.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE (SNAPO)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

As noted above, when Maui offices closed in the aftermath of the wildfires, residents of Maui continued to access DHS assistance through the call center and over the phone. SNAPO staff worked with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to obtain waivers and develop the D-SNAP process to assist impacted residents. SNAPO worked with SB to organize staff resources to meet the disaster response and ongoing Statewide services.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

SNAPO worked with FNS to obtain approval for several waivers to address access to food benefits for households directly impacted by the August wildfires.

On August 11, 2023, FNS approved SNAPO's request to waive the 10-day reporting requirement for food purchased with SNAP benefits lost due to power outages due to wildfires on August 8, 2023. This waiver also enabled DHS to consider requests for replacement SNAP benefits due to lost food for the areas indicated in the chart below:

Target for Replacement Benefits: SNAP recipient households affected by the recent wildfires caused by Hurricane Dora on Maui and Hawaii Island.	
Maui: 96753 – Kihei, Wailea 96761 – Lahaina	Hawaii Island: 96743 – Kamuela 96755 – Kapaau

96768 – Makawao	
96788 – Pukalani	
96790 - Kula	
Instruction for Households to Request Replacement Benefits: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call the Public Assistance Information Line at 1-855-643-1643, or2. Visit the Processing Center in your area.	
Source: SNAP Replacement and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Disaster Assistance	

In September 2023, SNAPO worked with FNS to request a mass replacement of August 2023 SNAP benefits for impacted households in the Lahaina and Kula areas. FNS approved the request for mass replacement benefits on September 8, 2023.

SNAPO also facilitated a waiver request to administer Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) in response to the Maui wildfire. Impacted individuals residing or working in Kula and Lahaina who were not receiving SNAP benefits were eligible to apply for D-SNAP. On September 13, 2023, FNS approved the request for D-SNAP applications from September 18-23, 2023. The primary application site was at the Hyatt Ka'anapali and ran daily from 8 am to 6 pm. BESSD set up satellite application sites throughout the State at the South Hilo Processing Center, North Kona Processing Center, Lanai Processing Center, Moloka'i Processing Center, OR&L Processing Center, and Kauai Processing Center from 8 am to 4 pm from September 18 to 22nd.

FNS also approved Hawai'i to provide supplemental benefits for households receiving SNAP who were residing in Kula and Lahaina. The average supplemental benefit issued was \$375 per household.

The following is an overview of other waivers requested by SNAPO for the Maui wildfire response that FNS approved:

- On August 16, 2023, FNS approved a Hot Foods waiver to allow SNAP households statewide to purchase hot food with SNAP benefits through September 14, 2023. FNS extended this waiver until October 13, 2023, and again until December 31, 2023. This waiver is critical because many households impacted by the Maui wildfire reside in temporary lodgings where they do not have access to a kitchen to cook and prepare their meals.
- On August 17, 2023, FNS approved a request to extend certification periods and waive periodic reporting requirements for ongoing SNAP households statewide in Hawaii for up to six (6) months due to the impact of the Maui wildfire. This waiver temporarily suspended Eligibility Renewals (E.R.s) and Six-Month Report Forms (SMRFs) for August, September, and October 2023.

While D-SNAP is a one-time benefit, DHS continues to process applications for regular SNAP benefits through our online Public Assistance Information System (PAIS) portal or at the Maui

State Office Building. Our SNAP Outreach partner on Maui – Project Vision Hawaii – has continued to provide informational resources to impacted households in the community to assist in ongoing relief through food access.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

The following are the results of actions taken in response to the Maui wildfire:

- **D-SNAP:** 3,222 households (8,616 individuals) were approved, and DHS dispersed a total of \$4,005,391 in D-SNAP benefits, with an average D-SNAP benefit of \$1,243 per household. A total of 455 households did not meet the eligibility criteria for D-SNAP.
- **Supplemental Benefit:** DHS dispersed to ongoing SNAP households residing in Kula and Lahaina a Supplemental Benefit totaling \$415,338 in SNAP benefits for 1,108 households (2,205 individuals). The average benefit disbursed was \$375 per household.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Staffing at both the program level in SNAPO, as well as at the operational level in the Statewide Branch (SB), is critical to continue providing SNAP assistance to impacted households on Maui and to obtain similar federal waivers and approvals in the event of another disaster. SNAPO and SB submitted budget requests for additional staffing to support this work and to ensure compliance with different federal mandates from FNS related to timeliness, payment accuracy, and management.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM OFFICE (TANFPO)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

As mentioned above, TANF/TAONF programs continued to process applications from Maui residents through the call center and online application process. Like other federal programs, the TANF program administrator worked with SB to address resource needs to address the disaster response and maintain Statewide operations. The TANF program administrator also worked with the Administration for Children & Families (ACF), US HHS, the Director's Office, and the Hawaii Community Foundation to obtain waivers and non-federal funds to set up a TANF disaster relief program for families with dependent children.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

In response to the Maui wildfire emergency, TANFPO temporarily waived the upfront work participation requirement for the First to Work program as a condition of eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF). This temporary waiver was statewide from August 8, 2023, through October

31, 2023. This temporary waiver intent was to provide families who lived or worked in the areas affected by wildfires, including those directly impacted and who have since moved to other islands, the opportunity to apply for financial assistance without additional hardship.

TANFPO also established [emergency administrative rules](#) for a Non-Recurring Short-Term (NRST) benefit program for wildfire disaster victims. The NRST program, also known as the Maui Relief TANF Program (MRTP), is for families with dependent children directly impacted by the Maui wildfire. The MRTP payments may assist families with housing, utilities, transportation costs, school supplies, and clothing.

The MRTP payments are non-recurring short-term benefits that:

- Will not extend beyond four (4) months;
- Are provided to address a family's specific crisis or episode of need and
- Are intended to meet a family's recurring or ongoing needs.

Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) was selected as the provider to administer the MRTP, and MEO began receiving applications for the program starting October 20, 2023.

The MRTP is independent of the ongoing TANF financial assistance benefits and has a different application process, eligibility criteria, and requirements.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

As of November 9, 2023, the MRTP received 1,130 applications for assistance. Of the applications received, 87 households (321 individuals) were approved for \$532,716 in benefits for rental assistance, mortgage, car payment, utilities, clothing, and school supplies. Fifty-six applications were denied, with the primary reason for denial being the applicant's household did not meet the criteria of being a family unit with a dependent child up to age 24.

TANFPO continues to provide support through regular meetings with MEO to monitor the progress of the MRTP. MEO accepts applications through its online portal, at MEO offices on Maui, and through Community Action Programs (CAPs) statewide and through outreach events throughout Maui. More information about MRTP is available at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/blog/governor-green-announces-application-date-for-maui-relief-tanf-program/>.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Staffing at both the program level in TANFPO and the operational level in the Statewide Branch (SB) is critical to continue assisting impacted households on Maui and seeking similar federal waivers and approvals in the event of another disaster.

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The Maui wildfires have not affected the HDVR and the Maui Branch operations.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

During the aftermath of the Lahaina fire, several Maui Branch employees went above and beyond to help the affected families. Two employees volunteered to assist BESSD with processing D-SNAP applications. At the same time, one staff member took it upon themselves to raise donations and create gift bags for children impacted by the fire. Another staff member worked with their church to assist those affected financially. The Maui Branch team also donated food, clothing, and supplies.

Additionally, they referred families to the American Red Cross and other agencies that could assist. The HDVR team, in collaboration with the Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) and Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH), provided assistive resources to the Maui Deaf victims. Finally, the Kapolei Section organized a fundraiser lunch plate, with support from Ho'opono and Oahu staff.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

We aim to connect the participants with essential resources to help victims and their families affected by wildfires. We spread the word through word of mouth and provide access to temporary food, financial aid, communication services, clothing and hygiene products, and shelter security. As a result, families and victims of the wildfire have expressed appreciation to our staff. Our efforts have also contributed to improving community relationships.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Financial literacy classes, legal assistance for housing and insurance claims, and resource navigation for state, county, federal, and private programs, including SNAP, unemployment, Section 8, HPHA, and SSI/SSDI. DVR clients and others with disabilities or accessibility issues will also benefit from DCMP services.

MED-QUEST DIVISION (MQD)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

MQD's Maui Eligibility Office was closed on Wednesday, August 9, and reopened on Monday, August 14. Many staff members had 'ohana who were impacted by the fires in Lahaina and Kula; they needed time to focus on their immediate needs, which was critically important and much appreciated.

Since then, our MQD Eligibility, Outreach, Systems, Administrative, and Clinical Standards teams have reprioritized their work to be available to the Maui community with consistent representation, first at the shelters and then at the Lahaina Civic Center/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center and other outreach venues where survivors have gathered to access connection to services.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

MQD paused all terminations and eligibility renewals for Maui County residents through May 2024. When the wildfires happened, MQD was engaged in eligibility renewals as part of the “unwinding” process related to the COVID-19 program changes. Residents Med-QUEST already covers do not need to take any action at this time. Med-QUEST will maintain individuals' coverage. MQD staff, some QUEST Integration health plan representatives, and Kokua/community organizations are available at various community outreach venues to help with applications.

MQD also worked with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek permission that would allow MQD to make temporary changes to the State Plan, 1115 waiver, and 1915(c) waiver to address the needs resulting from the Maui wildfires. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared a major disaster in the areas affected by wildfires beginning on August 8, 2023. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health emergency (PHE) on August 11, 2023, with a retroactive effective date of August 8, 2023. This PHE declaration has been renewed and continues through January 2024.

Also, Dr. Curtis Toma, who is the Medicaid Medical Director,

- a. Worked with the Department of Health (DOH), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to secure more infant formula for the Maui Food Bank and individuals who could not make it to the Maui Food Bank,
- b. Works with physicians to address health care needs,
- c. Coordinates with the DOH Intellectual /Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) program to locate accommodations for intellectually and developmentally delayed clients impacted by the fire,
- d. Regularly contributes to the State ESF 6 calls, and
- e. Works on messaging by pediatricians to support children and parents impacted by the disaster.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

It will be some time before anyone will know the true human impact of the Maui Wildfires and any long-term results of MQD's on the ground assistance. We hope our efforts have helped ensure that community members who have already lost so much will not have the additional worry of health insurance coverage through Med-QUEST, the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, or via their employer. We believe that our work with Maui County health care workers and systems has provided important information from the field so that Med-QUEST and

its partner Managed Care Organizations can clearly understand and address those areas of greatest need.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

The continuing HHS-declared PHE related to the wildfires will allow MQD to continue flexibilities and allow for increased provider access and coverage. Continued support for all MQD positions is necessary to ensure robust support for the community.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION (SSD)

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (CWS)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

At this time, there has been little impact on reports of abuse and neglect. Physically, the Maui CWS is in central Maui, and hours of operation remain normal. CWS staff have been available and accessible to support families impacted by the fires by volunteering their time to assist at various shelters. The Lahaina fires impacted families of CWS staff, and with other DHS staff, SSD staff supported Maui staff and participated in different relief efforts.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

Maui Child Welfare workers are in the community and participating in disaster relief efforts on Maui. At the outset, CWS accounted for all children in foster care in Maui. Families already receiving services from Child Welfare or Adult Protective Services and who need disaster relief aid were encouraged to contact their assigned worker for assistance.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

Staff have continued to support families through these difficult times. Many networking opportunities occurred with other programs and agencies.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Families require long-term benefits and supportive, stable housing to support families caring for their family members. Families would benefit from emotional and psychological counseling to assist with the trauma caused by the wildfires, in addition to bereavement support for those who lost loved ones. CWS staff is monitoring and engaging with domestic violence providers as the number of calls to the domestic violence hotline has increased. Domestic violence providers offered training to ARC staff working with residents at the NCS hotels. CWS staff is also monitoring for any reports of trafficking.

ADULT PROJECTIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (APCS)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The Maui Adult Protective and Community Services (APCS) offices were closed at the onset of the disaster, and the Maui APCS staff used that time to provide social services at shelters, provide direct medical care to victims in the disaster area, and set up mobile medical clinics, as well as gathering and distributing donations. The Maui APCS section administrator remained on call to respond to any emergencies or new cases assigned by the statewide reporting line, which remained active throughout.

Following the initial days of the disaster and the active fires, APCS has seen families displaced and relocated to other homes or hotels. There is continued uncertainty about the next steps for these families struggling to secure safe and stable housing. There have also been adult foster homes that have been affected, resulting in fewer placement options for our vulnerable adult clients who need placement. We know that this disaster will require long-term supportive services. As some kupuna and adults with disabilities who are successfully managing currently continue to age and may become vulnerable adults in the future, we must prepare to assist with any long-term disaster-related needs.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

Maui APCS staff are in the community and volunteering their time with disaster relief efforts on Maui. Vulnerable adults and their caregivers who are already receiving services from Adult Protective Services and need disaster relief aid are encouraged to contact their assigned worker for assistance. Maui APCS staff has been in contact with all active cases and has responded to needs with direct services and community resource linkage.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

The disaster has devastated the people of Maui, and Maui APCS staff have helped link people who need medical, shelter, and other social services. There have been no disaster-related deaths for any of the vulnerable adults that APCS is actively servicing.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

Longer-term housing and financial services are needed; many homeowners and renters were underinsured or uninsured, and it is unlikely that federal disaster assistance will be adequate to cover the extent of recovery and rebuilding. Vulnerable adults and their families may become targets of charity scams and will need additional support to navigate coming transitions.

Maui APCS staff will need continued emotional support as they help people in extreme need. It is vital to plan efforts to help the helpers to ensure that staff can continue to respond effectively to the community's needs while experiencing vicarious trauma.

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY (HPHA)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

The August 2023 wildfire disaster in Lahaina, Maui, destroyed the HPHA's David Malo Circle low-income public housing property. The project is considered to be a total loss, and the remains of each structure will require demolition. At Piilani Homes, five buildings were destroyed: Building B (6 dwelling units), Building C (6 dwelling units), Building G (4 dwelling units), the community center and office building, and a small pavilion building. Five buildings are remaining at the project site, each of which will likely require demolition: Building A (4 dwelling units), Building D (4 dwelling units), Building E (6 dwelling units), Building F (6 dwelling units) and Building H (6 dwelling units). The project is also considered to be a total loss. Both properties are located in AMP 39 (project number HI0010039).

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

The HPHA diverted all available resources to assist AMP 39 by sending neighboring island staff to assist in relocating and contacting all affected families, coordinated food, shelter, and medical assistance, and made temporary housing arrangements at various hotels, launched an emergency [website](#) for tenants and the public to access during and after the Maui Wildfires to ensure they have access to critical resources and information. The wildfires caused significant damage to the island, leaving many without homes and necessities. By creating a centralized location for tenants to access information on assistance programs, temporary housing options, and recovery efforts, HPHA aims to provide crucial support to those affected by the tragedy. This website is a crucial resource in ensuring that tenants are well-informed and supported as they navigate the aftermath of the wildfires. In regards to the low-income public housing properties, the HPHA is preparing an after-the-fact Section 18 application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to initiate the demolition and disposition process because, without their approval, the HPHA could lose future funding appropriations from them due to non-compliance. The HPHA continues to weigh its options on how best to proceed and is considering different repositioning alternatives.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

All HPHA families from the destroyed public housing properties in Lahaina are currently either placed in hotels, placed in different public housing units on Maui or another neighbor island or have left the program. The HPHA continues to assist these tenants by collaborating with them on pursuing alternative housing options, which also include Section 8 Tenant Protection Vouchers. The HPHA also requested various federal waivers in relief from HUD requirements

available to public housing authorities to assist with recovery and relief efforts on behalf of families and received approval from HUD in September 2023.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

The HPHA is working with HUD to continue assisting those impacted by the wildfires and taking necessary steps needed to demolish and potentially redevelop its Piilani Homes and David Malo Circle low-income public housing properties, and we will provide updates as we go through the process.

HUD

STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS (SOHHS)

1. How has the Maui wildfire impacted your operation?

Starting immediately after the Maui wildfires and through October, SOHHS participated in nearly daily meetings with the Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6) workgroup, Maui Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Hawaii Community Foundation working groups, and Joint Housing Task Force meetings, in order to support disaster response and ensure that the needs of people experiencing homelessness were addressed as part of that response. Other SOHHS priorities were delayed or deferred during this time.

2. What actions has your operation taken to assist the families impacted by the Maui wildfire emergency?

(a) Advocated for and successfully extended the FEMA Safe Harbor period by 30 days, ensuring that there was adequate time to set up an emergency shelter for people being evicted from Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) hotels who were otherwise not eligible for FEMA assistance. If not for this extension, more than 200 FEMA-ineligible people would have been evicted from hotels and onto the streets of Maui in early September before any emergency shelter was available.

(b) Assisted DHS efforts to establish the Maui Temporary Field Shelter (Pu'uhonua O Nene). Drafted the contract for the service provider and shelter operator, Project Vision Hawaii; worked with the County of Maui and community stakeholders to shape contract scope and terms; shepherded contract through expedited legal and fiscal reviews to ensure the timely launch of the shelter.

(c) Provided the County of Maui with model Emergency Housing rules to enable the County to establish rules and processes for rapid construction of interim and emergency housing.

(d) Convened a working group including the County of Maui, State agencies, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, elected leaders, and community-based organizations to ensure that the needs of people who were homeless in Lahaina prior to the fire and who were displaced/impacted by the fires, had their needs addressed, even if they were not FEMA-eligible.

Responded in real-time to challenges encountered by community-based-organizations, including:

- (i) ensured that U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development, Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) funds were deployed quickly and targeted effectively,
- (ii) ensured that community-based-organizations had access to Red Cross lists/data to enable them to find and continue to serve homeless clients in NCS hotels,
- (iii) ensured the fire-impacted people with mental or behavioral disabling conditions were rapidly processed for placement in supportive housing/treatment and
- (iv) ensured the timely sharing of information on EPA cleanup assistance for homeless service providers who had lost facilities, shelter, and housing in the fire.

3. What are the results of actions taken?

See above.

4. What resources are needed to continue to assist those impacted by the wildfires?

SOHHS continues to be focused on addressing the needs of people who were homeless prior to the fire and who were impacted by the fire (displaced, traumatized, lost possessions and/or loved ones), as the needs of this population are often overlooked. We are currently focused on establishing a Kauhale (village/community housing) for roughly 150 homeless individuals who will be without any place to go once the temporary shelter Puuhonua O Nene is decommissioned. We are currently working with the County of Maui, community-based organizations, and other Maui stakeholders, as well as State departments and development partners, to plan and launch a Kauhale in central Maui by mid-2024.

Appendix 3, Analysis of the Impact of Proposed Budget Reductions for SFY2025

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: Per the February 19, 2024, request from the Senate Committee on Ways & Means to analyze and propose potential reductions of 10% and 15% in general funds for FY 2025, DHS divisions and attached agencies provided program IDs and amounts that could be temporarily reduced and the potential impacts of the proposed reductions of the supplemental budget. The following comments provide updated information regarding the Department's analysis.

The Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD)

BESSD provides a continuum of public benefits and services to meet the basic needs of vulnerable, low-income households – including assistance with food, shelter, and other essentials. BESSD reviewed its supplemental budget request related to the Pohulani lease and

maintenance and operation (M&O) funding for the new Benefits Eligibility Solution (BES) and is unable to propose any reductions due to the necessity of both the Pohulani office space and BES to support BESSD's ability to serve vulnerable households.

A number of BESSD Program IDs are either solely federally funded (HMS206) or are split-funded with both general and federal funds (HMS236, HMS237, HMS302, and HMS903). For the split-funded Program IDs, a reduction in general funds would adversely impact the ability to leverage and fully draw down available federal funding.

BESSD also reviewed the following Program IDs that receive primarily general fund appropriations. We are concerned with the impacts of 10% or 15% reductions on these programs for the following reasons:

- **HMS202 – AABD:** BESSD identified a possible temporary reduction of \$250,000 for the Aid to Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD) program and is unable to reduce funding for this program further. AABD serves residents who are aged, blind, or permanently disabled and who do not qualify for federal Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. In addition, AABD is an entitlement program, and if the appropriation is reduced further or the caseload of eligible households increases in the next fiscal year, DHS may need to request an emergency appropriation next session.
- **HMS204 – GA:** General Assistance (GA) is a 100% State funded block grant program, and BESSD must adjust the GA monthly benefit payments to remain within the GA appropriation amount when caseloads increase. If the economy slows, we anticipate the GA caseload to remain high or continue to rise in SFY2025; consequently, the program cannot sustain either a 10% or 15% reduction. GA benefits help temporarily disabled adults purchase food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials.

The GA caseload has increased from 3,890 households in July 2022 to 4,503 households in January 2024. Additionally, to meet the increased caseload and stay within the program appropriation, on February 1, 2024, BESSD reduced the GA monthly benefit from \$469 per month to \$406 per month to avoid a budget shortfall. BESSD wants to avoid a reduction below \$406 per month and anticipates that it will likely rely on the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Special Fund to make it out of the current fiscal year.

Per SB 582 SD2, DHS is prepared to transfer \$901,783 from the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Special Fund (B funds) to the Department of Budget & Finance. We project this amount would lapse to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year per the special fund's statutory ceiling.

- **HMS211 – TAONF:** Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) is a general funded program that mirrors the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

program. TAONF provides the same benefits and services to Hawaii's needy families with children that include U.S. citizen two-parent households and mixed citizenship or non-citizenship single and two-parent households. Reduction to TAONF funding may lead to failing to provide equal benefits and services to two-parent citizenship, single and two-parent non-citizenship, or mixed citizenship families and unnecessarily harm these families and impact their ability to meet basic needs. A reduction to TAONF funds will also likely expose the State to an equal protection argument under the federal and State constitutions. Additionally, a condition to using the total amount of the federal TANF block grant is that Hawaii is required to expend State general funds that are not used to leverage other federal funds, also known as a "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE). The State general-funded TAONF program is utilized to meet the State MOE requirement, and reductions to TAONF will impact the State's ability to provide MOE and draw down the entire \$98.8 million federal TANF block grant amount.

- **HMS224 – Homeless Programs:** Homelessness is one of the most critical issues facing the State, and reductions to homeless services program funding would have an adverse impact on the State's ability to reduce and manage homelessness effectively. These funds support contracted services, including homeless outreach, civil legal services, shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing (Housing First), housing placement, and the State homeless emergency grant program.

Our budget request is to increase available funds for the purchase of services, as providers are struggling to deliver necessary services given the increased costs, including the increase in the minimum wage, utilities, and other essential costs of doing business. If funding for homeless services is not increased and reduced by either 10% or 15%, contracted providers will need to scale back services, which could include a reduction in shelter bed space, a reduction in the number of outreach staff available to respond to unsheltered individuals and encampments, or a reduction in the number of households receiving short- or medium-term financial assistance for rent and utilities.

Based on prior experience of increased homelessness following the great recession, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the end of the pandemic rental and mortgage assistance, we were already concerned with the potential for increased homelessness. The most recent statewide 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count illustrates that the population experiencing homelessness increased by an estimated 4% (=256 individuals) compared to the prior year.

- **HMS305 – Preschool Open Doors (POD):** The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program provides child care subsidies for eligible three- and four-year-olds statewide and is a critical tool to support early childhood development. POD rules were recently amended in January 2024 to expand eligibility requirements for the program and to expand eligibility to include 3-year-olds. The current level of funding is necessary to serve the

anticipated increase in households seeking POD services because of the recent statutory changes and increased appropriations. Reductions to POD funding would severely limit access to the program and would be counter-productive to the Lieutenant Governor's Ready Keiki initiative to expand access to preschool opportunities for Hawaii's keiki. Access to child care subsidies benefits parents so they can pursue higher education or maintain employment. Notably, access to early childhood programs through the Preschool Open Doors program is focused on providing early learning opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

The proposed reductions will negatively impact our operations. Some examples of the impacts would be reduced communications (e.g., fewer mailings/reminders/media outreach) to our members, which could result in confusion regarding their Medicaid coverage and benefits, especially for those who may not be comfortable with electronic communications, not purchasing necessary equipment, like servers, switches, and computers, to replace existing aging tools that have passed their useful life. These reductions could negatively impact our staff's ability to work as efficiently and effectively as they currently are; and they may reduce the number and funding amounts for our various contracts, which could impact Medicaid's ability to operate essential and required functions.

However, on a positive note, the proposed reduction also includes a reduction to our lease rent budget as we have assessed our space needs as a result of staff being able to work remotely and have planned to move out of leased space into state-owned space.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

The proposed 10% decrease in general funds will reduce access to available federal funding (=\$913,661 N funds) that requires state match funds. Consequently, it may result in a decrease in services for persons with disabilities, including employment services, independent living services, and services for the older blind.

The proposed 15% decrease in general funds will reduce access to available federal funding (=\$1,754,579 N Funds), which requires State match funds. A reduction of \$2.4M would dramatically impact available services for persons with disabilities, including employment services, independent living services, and services for the older blind.

DVR's client base is individuals with the most significant disabilities who are motivated and interested in gaining job skills and becoming employed. The more we can support individuals with disabilities who want to work and remain self-sufficient, the more they will participate in the workforce, reduce reliance on benefits, and contribute to the economy.

Social Services Division (SSD)

Decreases of 10% and 15% to either the Child Welfare Services Branch or the Adult Protective Community Services Branch would directly impact the division's ability to adequately make safety assessments in a timely manner as required by law, provide case management services to adequately address and resolve safety issues involving vulnerable children and adults, and restrict the ability to provide needed equipment for workers to adequately perform their job duties, e.g., work cellular phones for field workers, operational computers to do work efficiently.

Importantly, for child welfare services, the use of state funds is necessary before submitting federal claims for reimbursement. A decrease in state funds will impact the ability to maximize reimbursement from federal funds. Additional reductions of general funds for protective services will also make it more challenging to recruit and retain needed staff to do this most difficult and intense work, both for the agency and for contracted providers.

Child Welfare Services

- HMS301

The current budget is essential to meet daily operating costs. Daily operating costs include payroll and the following expenses: office supplies, office equipment, motor vehicles, non-placement related travel, contracted services, and office leases. Any reduction will negatively affect the impact of covering these necessary expenses. It will also limit the program's ability to improve efforts to recruit and retain more staff.

- HMS303
CWS Payments budget is essential for payments for children in foster care. These payments are **non-discretionary**, and funds are expended for board payments and expenses related to meeting the child's daily needs while the child is eligible to receive financial support while in the foster care system. Notably, effective 07/01/23, per the request of Senate Resolution 46 and House Resolution 46 (2023), CWS stopped using a child's Social Security benefits for foster board payments. Any reduction will result in reduced payment amounts to resource caregivers and eligible youth.
- HMS601 – Adult Protective and Community Services
In SFY25, this program will no longer have the additional ARPA funds and will again need to rely on general funds to meet essential services and daily operations. APCS needs to be sufficiently resourced to respond to reports of abuse or neglect to vulnerable adults.
- HMS605 – Community-Based Residential and Medicaid Facility Support
This appropriation is the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) that the Social Security Administration (SSA) requires for the State to receive federal funds for the State

Supplemental Program. There are several bills, including SB 849 SD2 and Hb1974 HD1 that are proposing to increase the State Supplemental Program benefit based on the current program appropriation. These bills also increase the personal needs allowance. A similar measure, HB 2216 HD2, also increases the State Supplemental Program benefit, though it does *not* increase the personal needs allowance. If these bills pass and the budget is reduced without approval from SSA, the State will likely face monetary sanctions.

- HMS901 - Social Services Division

This appropriation is needed to access the maximum amount available for federal reimbursement for IT modernization of SSD systems. As with other Title IV-E programs, access to federal funds is based upon a reimbursement model, where the State must upfront 100% of the costs to seek federal reimbursement. Reducing the available state funds, may further delay the development and implementation of the project, delay the work, and may result in higher project costs. Additionally, any reductions will limit the ability to provide the necessary training for new hires and ongoing continued training for staff that is necessary to provide best practices, stay current with the laws, policies, and rules, and update existing procedures.

Office of Youth Services (OYS)

Office of Youth Services (OYS) provides programs and services for Hawaii's youth, including the provision of balanced and comprehensive services for at-risk youth to prevent delinquency, reduce recidivism, and maximize opportunities for youth to become productive, responsible citizens through community-based and family-focused treatment interventions.

The proposed 10% to 15% reduction in general funds significantly impacts youth and families who are at risk of getting involved or more involved in the juvenile justice system. Since the establishment of OYS in the 1980s, OYS made significant progress in the reduction of the number of youth and proportion of youth adjudicated by the family court for delinquent behaviors or crimes by strengthening community-based services to divert youth out of court and the justice system.

Having contact with the justice system will be an adverse experience, counteract positive youth and adolescent development, negatively impact youth and family well-being, and increase the trajectory of getting further involved in the criminal justice system. If the funds that support prevention services for at-risk youth are decreased, the likelihood of these youth becoming juvenile justice or court-involved will increase due to the decreased capacity to provide prevention services. Community-based organizations (CBOs) that OYS contracts with would be impacted and likely reduce their staffing. In SFY 2023, these funded programs served 4,500 youth and their families. The contracted CBOs are essential to provide services necessary for

at-risk youth for their positive youth development. CBOs are already struggling to keep up with inflation and the increased cost of providing services.

In addition, when the number of youths entering the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) increases, the costs of care increase. Recall in Act 201, SLH 2014, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, the analysis revealed that each bed in HYCF costs more than \$199,000 per year. Applying the inflation rate of 28.8% between 2014 and 2024, we estimate the annual cost of housing one youth at HYCF has increased to approximately \$256,312.

This calculation does not include the post-release, re-entry support services to prevent recidivism. In addition, the workload on the part of the Judiciary and other stakeholders will increase as committing youth to HYCF is court-ordered. Considering the trauma that will be caused by living in a secured facility for any time, separation and isolation from their families and the community, and the impact it makes on their adolescent brain development, a 10% to 15% reduction in the budget will create a ripple effect all across the juvenile justice system and the community.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)

HMS220 Rental Housing Services

The general fund appropriation is being used to support state rental housing services expenditures. As the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is required to operate state public housing at a breakeven level, this appropriation has allowed the attached agency to not increase rent amounts to the elderly and disabled (who make up 86% of tenants) to cover costs. Additionally, as the units in the state inventory do not receive a regular subsidy from the State, HPHA uses these funds and other administrative fees to cover the losses under this program to operate the properties. The state elderly and disabled housing program represents the majority of units in HPHA's state inventory, and the budget reduction would impose severe hardship on HPHA's ability to maintain and operate the state public housing units. No federal funds can be expended to maintain and operate the state public housing units. Due to these realities, HPHA has historically been spared from budget reductions.

HMS222 Rental Assistance Services

HPHA's Rental Supplement Program is the only direct state rental assistance program that assists low-income families and individuals renting units in the open market. The general funds in this program are restricted to direct rental assistance and funding for positions, and the budget reduction would impose severe hardship on HPHA's ability to operate the Rental Supplement Program. The reduction would mean that HPHA would serve fewer families through this program. No federal funds can be expended to maintain and operate the State Rental Supplement Program. Due to these realities, HPHA has been historically spared from budget reductions.

HMS904 Administration

Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)

The Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) is not able to reduce any general fund appropriations as a reduction in general funds would impact the ability to hire qualified licensed attorneys to serve as hearings officers. The office has already had to vary from full-time positions to part-time positions to attract licensed and qualified attorneys to become hearing officers. Difficulty recruiting attorneys to serve in this role is due to the complexity of the cases and the rate of pay. AAO anticipates increases in requests for administrative reviews as the COVID-19 program waivers are unwinding and recipients may no longer be eligible for services, or their benefits are reduced.

Audit, Quality Control, and Research Office (AQCRO)

The reduction of \$60,000 will limit access to technical expertise in research and statistical analysis. New IT systems are coming online, and the position is essential to maintain demands in research and statistics.

AQCRO provides departmental internal audits, which are necessary for program compliance. The services of AQCRO are essential for programs to assess and address issues and to improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery.

Budget, Planning & Management Office (BPMO)

The Budget Planning Management Office addresses all budget issues. It assists all divisions with identifying strategic planning budget goals, facilitates information to and from the Legislature and the Department of Budget & Finance, measures and prepares necessary performance metrics and reports, prepares program reorganizations, and is an integral part of Departmental operations. Reducing this office by any amount would severely impact the Department's fiscal management and planning efforts.

Director's Office

Any reductions in funds would impact the Director's office and slow down its ability to attend to the organization's responsibilities and emergency management duties. The Director's Office was in the process of filling vacant executive-level positions when the Maui Wildfire response reprioritized efforts. DHS Director's Office has had to take on additional emergency management responsibilities all while continuing to oversee the DHS programs. Additionally, the Director's Office is using available general funds to support emergency management efforts. For FY2025, we do not see those efforts slowing down as the Director's Office is leading the State's FEMA Disaster Case Management Program, Rental Assistance Program, Recovery Support Function – Social Services/Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care and Feeding, and the interim modular housing project in West Maui.

The Director's Office also performs its "blue sky" duties of oversight over DHS programs, personnel, contracts, media inquiries, general inquires and complaints, and requests for information pursuant to the Uniform Information Practices Act.

The Director's office is also the lead agency or partner on several initiatives: Family Resource Centers, including the Visitation and Family Resource Center at Waiawa Correctional Center, SNAP Longitudinal Data Project, SNAP-WIC Share Our Strengths, and NGA Youth Mental Health Policy Academy. Additionally, the Director's office has taken on various new responsibilities and large build projects, including supporting the statewide kauhale efforts.

Fiscal Management Office (FMO)

Any reductions to FMO would impact the procurement of contracted services, processing of invoices and payments, and payroll. Additionally, with the number of federally funded programs DHS implements, the FMO staff are highly qualified and valued for their acumen and efforts to maximize the use of federal funds and claims for federal reimbursement. FMO has been in recruitment to fill vacant positions; however, the work is complex, and recruitment has been difficult, so much so that staff are relying upon overtime to get the work done.

Human Resources (HR)

Human Resources requires its total appropriations to continue with a high level of recruitment efforts to fill the Department's vacancies. Additionally, due to the nature of human services work, HR staff need to conduct criminal history checks of candidates as well as current staff on a periodic basis. HR is also working with program administrators and BPMO to modernize position descriptions and reorganize programs to be more efficient. Any impact on HR will have a ripple effect on divisions and programs as they are reliant on efficient recruitment and innovative retention.

Office of Information Technology (OIT)

OIT supports DHS staff statewide, in offices, as well as those who are working remotely. OIT has struggled to fill its vacancies, as competition for the IT workforce is high. OIT has several IT modernization projects ongoing as well as continuing to maintain the Department's legacy systems. OIT provides essential security services for all programs and employees. DHS systems and employees are frequent targets of phishing and other unsavory scams.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

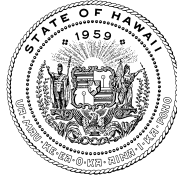
CSW operates one of the smallest budgets within DHS, and even small reductions to their budget have a significant impact. We are currently in the process of hiring an Executive Director and Secretary II to staff the office. Further reductions to operating capacity will hinder their success.

Commission on Fatherhood (COF)

COF has a very small budget and is working on recruiting Commissioners so that it can address its mission. Nationally, there is more investment in fatherhood initiatives, and the

COF needs its budget to advocate for increased programming and services to support fathers and families in Hawaii.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

H.B. 1800

MARCH 6, 2024, 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1800, Relating to the State Budget, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** the Governor's executive budget. We are seeking funding for critical needs in support of our goal to provide quality and consistency in the delivery of essential support services to other State departments and agencies. The following are highlights of our approved budget requests.

I. Operating Budget – Highlights of our FY 2025 Supplemental Operating Budget items included in this measure:

- Adds \$1,650,000 for support of the Enterprise Financial System project in the Accounting System Development and Maintenance program.
- Adds \$200,000,000 to increase the revolving fund appropriation ceiling in the Risk Management Office and Insurance Administration program to reflect anticipated insurance claim payments related to the 2023 Wildfires.
- Adds \$1,134,322 for increased electricity and utility costs for the department's managed State buildings on O'ahu and the island of Hawai'i.

- Adds \$275,000 for the Government Private Hybrid Cloud in the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS).
- Adds \$470,000 for increased maintenance and operating costs of ETS' telecommunications radio sites statewide.
- Adds 9.00 permanent positions and \$367,542 as net change in multiple programs and means of financing to create new West Hawai'i District Office on Island of Hawai'i for the School Repair and Maintenance Neighbor Island Districts program.

II. CIP Budget - DAGS appreciates the support included for CIP in the Executive Budget for the following items:

- Adds \$4,750,000 for No. 1 Capitol District Bldg., Site and Accessibility Improvements, O'ahu.
- Adds \$5,000,000 for Enterprise Financial System, Statewide.
- Adds \$1,000,000 for Decommission of the Kalanimoku Data Center, O'ahu
- Adds \$4,500,000 for Agricultural Warehouses, Statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 6, 2023

To: The Honorable, Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

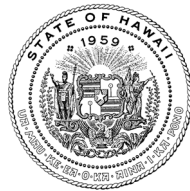
Re: H.B. 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The **DLIR supports** HB1800 and notes that the department does not have significant requests in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Request for FY2025 in light of the circumstances arising from the Maui wildfires. The DLIR has three federal funding adjustments and one request to re-establish a small ceiling (\$300,000) for the Labor Law Enforcement Special Fund (LLESF).

Re-establishing the ceiling for this special fund will provide monies for the department to use to collect penalties and fees through the Civil Recoveries Division of the Department of the Attorney General in accordance with §371-12.5(b)(3). The ceiling was eliminated by the 2020 Legislature in response to the fiscal situation resulting from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Currently, pursuant to §371-12.5(c), any balance in the fund is transferred to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Revenues during the past three fiscal years averaged approximately \$1.5M.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important matters.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
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
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1800

March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 306 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) strongly supports this Administration bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1800 requests supplemental appropriations for FY 2025 funding requirements for operating and capital improvements program (CIP) projects of the Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Included in H.B. No. 1800 are priority B&F funding requests that are necessary to support the operations of the Department and its attached agencies. I ask for your favorable consideration for these B&F requests which include the following: \$186,160,000 for response and recovery efforts related to the 2023 wildfires, increase in the Mass Transit Special Fund ceiling by \$49,730,000 to better reflect revenues and transfers to the City and County of Honolulu for the Hawai'i Area Rapid Transit, \$13,356,628 to provide matching funds for broadband deployment grants, \$4,000,000 increase in Trust Fund ceiling for the Unclaimed Property Program for higher claims payments, and \$300,000 increase in Trust Fund Ceiling for the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) to fund increased IT maintenance and operating costs for the EUTF benefits administration computer system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important Administration bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 6, 2023

To: The Honorable, Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

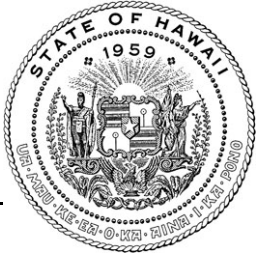
Re: H.B. 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The **DLIR supports** HB1800 and notes that the department does not have significant requests in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Request for FY2025 in light of the circumstances arising from the Maui wildfires. The DLIR has three federal funding adjustments and one request to re-establish a small ceiling (\$300,000) for the Labor Law Enforcement Special Fund (LLESF).

Re-establishing the ceiling for this special fund will provide monies for the department to use to collect penalties and fees through the Civil Recoveries Division of the Department of the Attorney General in accordance with §371-12.5(b)(3). The ceiling was eliminated by the 2020 Legislature in response to the fiscal situation resulting from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Currently, pursuant to §371-12.5(c), any balance in the fund is transferred to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Revenues during the past three fiscal years averaged approximately \$1.5M.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important matters.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism strongly supports HB1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. DBEDT kindly requests consideration of the following operating and CIP line items.

Operating Requests

- BED105/CI - \$475,000 special fund ceiling increase for FY 25 to develop an online integrated film permitting hub, supporting counties improving efficiencies, data gathering, expediency and add a new online creative jobs portal directory, including locations and cultural information, guidelines to connect film and media productions to businesses and creative companies and entrepreneurs in the state. As well for hosting/maintenance and data reporting for the new permitting hub and development of a statewide strategic creative industries industry road map. All county OED offices and film programs will also be allocated funding to get aligned with a statewide strategy which accelerates entrepreneurial and business growth, export of intellectual property and related products, and workforce development initiatives. This builds a framework and adds funds for executing a community based, economic development strategy to expand markets for all creative sectors.
- BED107/BA - \$120,000 special fund ceiling increase for FY25 to procure (2) warehouse forklifts to replace those that are at end-of-life.

- BED113/TO - \$64,000,000 in general funds for FY25 toward HTA programs and staff, as well as 25 positions to continue the important work of supporting Maui's recovery and the stabilization of Hawaii's largest industry by marketing the islands as a visitor destination and implementation of destination management in communities across the state.
- BED113/XC - \$25,000,000 expenditure ceiling in special funds in FY25 for the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund to allow for Hawaii Convention Center operations as well as repair and maintenance.
- BED120/SI - \$700,000 special fund ceiling increase for FY25 for cost match and working capital is needed to support the Advance Assistance 2.0 Project and ZEV Infrastructure project.
- BED120/SI - \$97,098 in general funds for FY25 to cover payroll shortfall.
- BED138/GI - \$818,630 in both special and federal funds for FY25 to create three new positions and for administrative overhead to administer its Federally funded SSBCI Hi-CAP programs and soon to launch C-PACER financing program mandated by Act 183, SLH 2022). Additionally, the Authority is expecting additional federal funds from the EPA under the Solar for All Program, requiring additional fiscal and compliance expertise and a dedicated community outreach officer, as 100% of the funds are required to benefit low-income households and disadvantaged communities. With over 900 loan applications and only five authorized FTE, the additional staff requested is not only critical to ensure timely processing, approval and funding of loans, but to also retain staff and avoid employee burn out.
- BED144/PL - \$182,238 in General Funds for FY25 for restoration of funding for Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 122605) and adding 3.00 Permanent FTE and funds for a Special Plans Project Manager (Pos. No. 124200), Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 124251), and CEDS Project Analyst (Pos. No. 124288.) Personnel funds are needed to support Maui County community planning and capacity building, in collaboration with the State Recovery Support Functions. They are also working on an application to EDA to designate the State of Hawaii as an Economic Development District (EDD) to unlock additional federal dollars. The loss of funding could result in the loss of eligibility for EDD designation, which is key to unlocking additional EDA funds for economic development projects across the state.
 - We would like to request a correction to a typographical error in the budget worksheets, notated in red text below.
 100-001 Supplemental Request: 3.00 182,238 A
 Add positions and funds for Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
 Personal Services for (1) Temp Special Plans Project Analyst (~~#124251-122605~~; 41,208)
- BED170/KB - Establish Kauai Property Manager - \$57,558 revolving fund ceiling increase for FY 25. The funds are a half a year's salary to establish a Kauai Property Manager. The position will oversee 18,000 acres of land on Kauai. There is no current staff or position in the area. The position is needed to monitor and properly oversee the ADC's lands on Kauai.

- BED170/KB - Establish Kauai Water System Manager - \$57,558 revolving fund ceiling increase for FY 25. The funds are a half a year's salary to establish a Kauai Water System Manager. The position will oversee (2) water systems that provide irrigation water to 18,000 acres of land on Kauai. There is no current staff or position in the area. The position is needed to conduct proper management of the system for daily operations and for emergency conditions.
- BED170/KB - Vehicle Purchase - \$110,000 revolving fund ceiling increase for FY25. One (1) vehicle for the Property Manager - \$55,000 in Revolving Funds for FY25. For use by Property Manager. One (1) vehicle for the Water System Manager- \$55,000 in Revolving Funds for FY25. For use by the Water System Manager.
- BED180/SA –\$49,500,000 special fund ceiling increase for FY25 to increase the Stadium Development Special Fund (SDSF) ceiling to allow Stadium Authority to allot and expend the funds appropriated in Act 248, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 and by provision 17.3 authorized to deposit the appropriation into the SDSF. The lapse date was extended to 06/30/2024 by Act 35, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. The ceiling increase will provide SA with a great amount of flexibility to utilize these funds to support the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project.

CIP Requests

- BED113 - \$64,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for the Convention Center Rooftop replacement project to prevent further damage to this important state asset. Reappropriating the funds that were appropriated in Act 164, SLH 2023 and subsequently transferred to B&F for 2023 Wildfires per Executive Memo 23-08.
- BED144 - \$2,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 to support planning of state and county transit-oriented development projects, including infrastructure assessments, mixed-use development, and affordable housing. The promotion of mixed-use development and affordable housing within transit-oriented development areas across the state is one of the most viable means for addressing the need for affordable housing. Since the establishment of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development, the State has appropriated capital improvement project funds to support planning of transit-oriented development projects in all four counties.
- BED144 - \$80,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 to further development from WRAP Ph 1 Study that will provide more information and ongoing community visioning to refine and identify future project pathways for the resilience of Waikiki.
- BED146 - \$5,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for a joint project with the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) to complete an exploratory portable freshwater well.
- BED146 - \$16,932,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for the construction of two roads at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology part (HOST Park).

- BED150 - \$10,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 going toward the Iwilei-Kapalama TOD Infrastructure Design for infrastructure improvements (wastewater, electrical, water, drainage, and roads) to support a transit-oriented community in the area.
- BED150 - \$25,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 going toward UH West Oahu Infrastructure to extend the roadway and related improvements that facilitate the development of Parcels 5 and 7, to support development of about 1,095 housing units by HHFDC, on University lands near the Skyline Keone'ae Station.
- BED150 - \$12,125,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for Saratoga Avenue Electrical Upgrades because this community has struggled with unreliable electricity for over a decade. This community has struggled with unreliable electricity for over a decade. These funds will provide the Kalaeloa downtown area with reliable and resilient energy, built to the industry standard, that will connect to the Enterprise Energy Corridor.
- BED150 - \$4,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for District Wide Kalaeloa Electrical Upgrades. These funds for the planning, design and construction of electrical upgrades in the Kalaeloa community development district will encourage economic development as well as housing construction.
- BED150 - \$1,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 going towards construction of Heeia Stream Access Road from the southern portion of the district near Alaloa Street Bridge for the removal of deleterious materials to mitigate flooding and facilitate habitat restoration.
- BED160 - \$50,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY25 for Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Infusion, Statewide. DURF may be used for the acquisition of real property; development and construction of residential, commercial, and industrial properties; interim and permanent loans to developers; development of regional infrastructure; and all things necessary to carry out the purposes of HHFDC's Housing Development Program, including administrative expenses. Among other uses, the \$50 million infusion is needed for the development of infrastructure to support temporary and permanent housing on Maui in response to the August 2023 wildfires disaster.
- BED160 - \$180,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25 Cash Infusion for Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Statewide. RHRF provides loans or grants for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of rental housing units. The state has a severe shortage of housing, and the \$180 million infusion is needed to continue to provide gap financing for the development of affordable rental housing projects. To illustrate the demand for such financing, for the 2024 funding round, HHFDC received 25 RHRF applications for loans totaling \$616 million to finance a total of 3,477 units.

- BED170 - \$4,500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used to complete plans and designs of a system to reuse discharge of treated wastewater for irrigation. The plan ends the discharge of treated wastewater into the environment since 1929. Originally \$5MM in general funds were appropriated for FY24 and ADC is requesting re-appropriation of funding less the adjusted amount per EM23-08.
- BED170 - \$9,500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used for planning and development of a statewide Food & Product Innovation Network to support the development of value-added products for the agriculture industry. Originally \$10MM in general funds were appropriated in FY24 and the ADC is requesting reappropriation of funds less the adjusted amount per EM23-08.
- BED170 - \$6,470,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used to design and construct a system to provide irrigation water to over 1,000 acres of farmland and includes a pressurized hydrant system for fire control. Without funding the 1,000+ acres of farmland cannot be farmed slowing the state's goal to double food production. The adjoining 5,000+ acres of non-farmlands and the neighboring community are at higher risk of wildfires.
- BED170 - \$500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used to complete cleanup of a site that once contained illegal activity and begin leasing the property to a farmer to generate revenue and agriculture products. The cost is based on a narrowed scope of work resulting from testing and working with the HDOH.
- BED170 - \$2,500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used to improve an old bridge used daily by State tenants, members of the community, and visitors. The bridge improvements are needed to make the bridge safe for all users. Not proceeding may result in the bridge failing, causing injury or worse to users.
- BED170 - \$1,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used to restore damaged portions of the bridge that provides access to actively farmed lands. The bridge is the secondary access for all of Kauai's northside residents if the Wailua bridge would fail or is damaged.
- BED170 - \$4,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY25. The funds will be used for design and construction of infrastructure needed to support a modular slaughter facility for small livestock. The funds will support the need of food safe slaughter facilities required for the industry to grow. Originally \$4MM in general funds was appropriated for FY25 and this request is for reappropriation of the funds as general obligation bonds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board (ELB)

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Conference Room 308

EARLY LEARNING BOARD’S POSITION: Support

The Early Learning Board (ELB), the governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning strongly supports H.B. No. 1800 and respectfully supports EOEL’s request for additions related to federal funds.

The Early Learning Board appreciates the Legislature’s on-going commitment to ensure EOEL’s ability to maintain existing services for young children and their families and for its support of efforts to expand access to high-quality early learning. H.B. No. 1800 maintains funding necessary for the Office to continue operating existing EOEL Public Prekindergarten classrooms and to open an additional 44 classrooms in the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year.

Hawai’i was awarded the Federal Preschool Development Birth through Five Renewal Grant (PDG), the funding from which is being utilized to strengthen existing infrastructure for a coordinated mixed delivery early care and education system. EOEL is working with partners to: conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine the current landscape and potential impacts from the pandemic and wildfires along with developing a strategic plan to improve utilization, timeliness, efficiency and effectiveness of services and strengthen governance for the mixed delivery system. In addition, the grant work seeks to connect families to services that meet their unique needs, build on recommendations of the 2022 workforce compensation study, and develop a standardized quality improvement model.

The PDG will end in 2026 and has the option for a 1-year no-cost extension. As approved by the Federal Government, the grant includes the following positions and subsequent funding to EOEL:

Position Name	FTE #	\$ Amount	MOF
Program Specialist	1	\$65,000	P
Program Specialist	1	\$65,000	P
Total	2	\$130,000	P

The Program Specialist positions will be tasked with strengthening family engagement and activities in collaboration with stakeholders and State partners. One position will focus on establishing and facilitating a parent council to incorporate parent-voice and feedback in decision-making processes as it pertains to accessing early learning programs and services. The other position will coordinate and assist with the implementation of all grant activities

related to the design and development of the comprehensive needs assessment and strategic planning and implementation.

Maintaining the appropriations in EDN 700 will allow EOEL to continue our work to increase early learning opportunities for all young children and the requested additions highlighted above will allow EOEL to enhance our work to assist families with accessing programs and services that benefit their children.

The Early Learning Board thanks you for the opportunity to testify in strong support on this bill.



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

CHASON ISHII
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
Executive Director
Hawai'i Community Development Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.
VIA Videoconference, State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

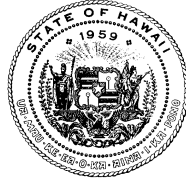
Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports HB 1800**, that adjusts and requests appropriations for funds for the operating and capital improvement budget for the Executive Branch.

The great need for affordable housing and economic development in Hawai'i continues to be a priority, and the need for infrastructure improvements are the first step to building additional homes in many areas.

HCDA has made significant progress in the development of needed infrastructure to support affordable housing development.

Thank you for your continued support and guidance as seen in the funding of operations and the CIP projects under HCDA, in this state budget bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Room Number: Videoconference/308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Sufficient appropriations are required for the Department of Health (DOH)
2 to implement statutory obligations. Insufficient funding will jeopardize public health at large
3 and for vulnerable populations.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports HB1800, in particular where priorities identified
5 in the Governor's Executive Budget Request have been funded at requested levels.

6 The mission of the Department of Health is to promote and protect the physical, psychological,
7 and environmental health of the people of Hawaii through public health's three core functions:

- 8 • Assessment, or quantifying threats to public health;
- 9 • Policy development, or implementing policies and programs that enhance protective
10 factors and limit risk factors to public health; and
- 11 • Assurance, or enforcement of policies and maintaining programs that protect public
12 health using the best available science.

13 While the DOH strives to proactively identify and address community public health needs, we
14 have recently found ourselves responding to an unprecedented series of disasters including the
15 COVID-19 pandemic, Red Hill leaks, and Maui wildfires. These disasters have challenged DOH
16 in our efforts to keep up with the increased demand for services provided by DOH and our
17 ongoing day-to-to operations. We continue to monitor critical program needs and funding

1 availability to promote our mission, and we emphasize prudence in our approach to spending on
2 the most critical program needs and utilizing all available funding sources.

3
4 In our Supplemental Budget request, we ask for only the most critical items to support the
5 highest needs in our community. This includes necessary funding for the Hawaii State Hospital
6 and a new mental health crisis center in Honolulu, rate study based provider rate increases for
7 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and Early Intervention Services programs, and
8 collective bargaining rate increases for contracted Emergency Medical Services providers. The
9 Supplemental Budget for FY 25 for the Department of Health provides for a net of 10 new
10 general funded FTE and \$58,447,572 in additional general funded resources. A few of the
11 priority requests are highlighted below with background information.

12
13 Behavioral Health Administration:

- 14 • OR-1 (HTH 420/HO) \$6.7 million in general funds for operations at the Iwilei Resource
15 Center. This behavioral health crisis center will enable first responders to drop off
16 individuals who are in crisis but not in need of medical care.
- 17 • OR-5 (HTH 420/HQ) \$20.0 million in general funds for the Hawaii State Hospital's
18 various contracts for inpatient care at other setting in Hawaii and on the mainland and for
19 staff overtime.
- 20 • OR-18 (HTH 420/HQ) \$13.0 million in general funds for locum tenens staff at the
21 Hawaii State Hospital.
- 22 • OR-15 (HTH 460/HO) \$10.8 million in general funds to increase payment to child and
23 adolescent behavioral health care providers based on a completed rate study.
- 24 • OR-98 (HTH 420/HM) Add 4.00 positions and funds to staff a Certified Community
25 Behavioral Health Center of Maui.
- 26 • (HTH 420/HQ) While not included in the budget due to timing, resource requests for
27 recommendations subsequent to the safety-stand down and comprehensive review are
28 forthcoming.

29

1 Environmental Health Administration:

- 2 • OR-4 (HTH 840/FG) Add 2.00 permanent Environmental Health Specialist IV positions
3 and funds for enforcement and data management to assist with additional work associated
4 with the Lahaina Wastewater Treatment Plant Supreme Court decision.
- 5 • OR-97 (HTH 849/FC) 1.00 position and funds for a Physician I to provide environmental
6 health/medical toxicology subject matter expertise to the Environmental Planning Office,
7 Environmental Health Administration and across the Department of Health.

8

9 Health Resources Administration:

- 10 • HS-2 (HTH560/CG) \$5.0 million in general funds to increase payment to Early
11 Intervention Services providers based on a completed rate study.
- 12 • OR-16 (HTH730/MQ) \$2.5 million in general funds for anticipated pay increases for
13 emergency service providers contracted by the State for the counties of Maui, Kauai and
14 Hawaii.
- 15 • OR-31 (HTH 100/DG) Add 2.00 permanent positions and funds, for one plumber and
16 one laborer, to maintain structures at Kalaupapa.
- 17 • HS-46 (HTH596/KM) \$2.2 million plus two positions funded by Special Funds are
18 requested to implement and maintain a statewide multi-media information campaign
19 addressing adverse public health and safety impacts related to cannabis use and misuse
20 pursuant to section 329D-26(a), HRS.

21

22 Capital Improvement Projects Being Requested for the FY 25:

- 23 • \$4.2 million for Hawaii State Hospital improvements to the Guensberg Building and
24 Bishop buildings for bed expansion.
- 25 • \$0.6 million for the Hawaii State Hospital to repair chilled water line and other
26 improvements.
- 27 • \$9.96 million for Kamauleule to replace air handler units and exhaust fans, and for
28 related improvements.

- 1 • \$2.75 million for Kalaupapa Settlement for the municipal solid waste landfill cover and
2 related site improvements.
- 3 • \$0.36 million for the Hawaii State Hospital to upgrade fire alarm panel and related
4 improvements.
- 5 • \$2.0 million for Kamauleule Biosafety Level 3 laboratory.
- 6 • \$0.44 million for Kalaupapa to remediate hazardous materials.
- 7 • (\$95 million) for Kinau Hale.
- 8

9 Miscellaneous

- 10 • The Executive biennium budget requests also include trade-off transfer requests which
11 consist of housekeeping adjustments to reduce negative personal services adjustment
12 budget lines and other housekeeping requests to fold in statutorily exempt positions and
13 align the budget to previously acknowledged reorganizations.
 - 14 ○ Despite a 26% vacancy rate, DOH is actively negotiating with the Department of
15 Human Resources Development for pilot projects and expanded delegated
16 authority to improve recruitment.
 - 17 ○ Under the leadership of DOH's new Workforce Director, the department is
18 currently recruiting for specialized positions such as a Workforce Retention
19 Manager and Operational Effectiveness Coordinator.
- 20 • Federal fund adjustment requests are also being submitted to align the federal budget
21 ceiling with updated actual and anticipated federal fund awards.
- 22

23 Not Included

- 24 • A budget request that was not included due to timing is \$14.3 million to improve safety
25 and security at the Hawaii State Hospital. We expect this request to be included in a
26 Governor's Message.
- 27

1 We appreciate the consideration of our resource requests to protect and promote the physical,
2 behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawaii. The DOH is the statewide public
3 health agency focusing on populations and prevention and working to ensure that all residents
4 have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

5

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 9:02:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DLNR	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ZOOM LINK REQUEST

Aloha,

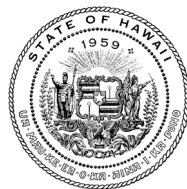
Please accept this request for a Zoom link for additional DLNR staff to answer questions and provide supplemental information, if prompted, during the Department of Land and Natural Resources' testimony on HB1800 at the House Finance Committee hearing on Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 at 10:00am. At this time, the names of staff that need to join the hearing via Zoom are: Russell Tsuji, Kevin Moore, and Ian Hirokawa from DLNR's Land Division.

Note: No testimony is attached as it was previously submitted and this submittal is to serve only as a request for a zoom link to the hearing.

Mahalo the assistance and consideration.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") supports H.B. 1800, which provides supplemental appropriations for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025 to fund the operations of the Department. The Department offers the following comments regarding the Department's significant budget requests contained in H.B. 1800.

1. Increase Spending in Compliance (OCE)

This request adds \$101,970 to the budget for FY25 for the Compliance Division, which includes funds to cover cost increases for vital subscriptions, memberships, and other resources, including access to audit findings, assessments, and voluntary disclosure referrals from the Multistate Tax Commission (MTC), and access to real property transactions and ownership information from Hawaii Info Service.

2. Increase Spending in Tax Collection Services Office (OCE)

This request adds \$199,200 to the budget for FY25 for the Tax Collection Services Office, which includes funding to continue database access to research tools to locate delinquent taxpayers and funding to cover increases in the cost of postage and increases in the volume of notices sent via mail.

3. Increase Spending in Tax Research and Planning Office (OCE)

This request adds \$50,000 to the budget for FY25 to allow continued access to statistical and economical research programs for the Tax Research and Planning (TRP) Office. These programs help the TRP Office perform economic impacts, demographic analysis, and the dynamic scoring of state budgets at the regional level.

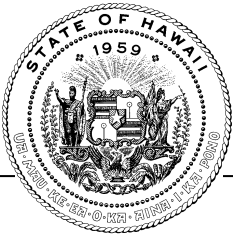
4. Increase Spending in Administrative Services Office (OCE)

This request adds \$98,000 to the budget for FY25 to allow the Department to cover increases in costs for armored vehicle services and to implement enhanced building security measures to protect employees and visitors from threat situations.

5. Reduce two (2) civil service positions and establish one (1) exempt position in Information Technology Services Office

This request reduces two permanent IT civil service positions and associated general funds (\$126,192) in FY25 from TAX107/AC and establishes one exempt Senior Software Developer position within TAX107/AC. This request is intended to enable the Department to develop and retain experienced high-level software developers that can perform complex system changes.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1800. This appropriates the funds for the OPSD in operating budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal year 2025.

Highlights of OPSD's supplemental budget request includes the following:

- Add \$182,238 in General Funds for restoration of funding for the following:
 - Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 122605)
 - Add 3.00 exempt FTE and funds for a Special Plans Project Manager (Pos. No. 124200), Special Plans Project Analyst (Pos. No. 124251), and CEDS Project Analyst (Pos. No. 124288). All four positions are currently filled.

Please note the error in the budget worksheets and ask to correct:

100-001 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST: 3.00 182,238 A
ADD POSITIONS AND FUNDS FOR OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (BED144/PL).

PERSONAL SERVICES FOR (1) TEMP SPECIAL PLANS PROJECT
ANALYST (~~#124251~~ 122605; 41,208)

Personnel funds are needed to retain staff to continue to support Maui County community planning and capacity building, in collaboration with the State Recovery Support Functions. They are also working on an application to EDA to designate the State of Hawaii as an Economic Development District (EDD) to unlock additional federal dollars. The loss of state funded positions could result in the loss of eligibility for the EDD designation, which is key to unlocking additional EDA funds for economic development projects across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 4, 2024

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Conference Room 308

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING’S POSITION: Support

EOEL strongly supports H.B. No. 1800 and respectfully requests additions related to federal funds.

We appreciate the Legislature’s commitment to ensure EOEL’s ability to maintain existing services for young children and their families and for its support of our work to increase access to high-quality early learning. H.B. No. 1800 maintains funding necessary for the Office to continue operating existing EOEL Public Prekindergarten classrooms and to open the additional 44 more classrooms in the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year.

Hawai’i was awarded the Federal Preschool Development Birth through Five Renewal Grant (PDG). The funding from this grant is being utilized to strengthen existing infrastructure for a coordinated mixed delivery early care and education system. As part of this initiative, we are working with partners to: conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine the current landscape and potential impacts from the pandemic and wildfires; develop a strategic plan to improve utilization, timeliness, efficiency and effectiveness of services and strengthen governance for the mixed delivery system; connect families to services that meet their unique needs; build on recommendations of the 2022 workforce compensation study; and develop a standardized quality improvement model.

The PDG will end in 2026 and has the option for a 1-year no-cost extension. As approved by the Federal Government, the grant includes the following positions and subsequent funding to EOEL:

Position Name	FTE #	\$ Amount	MOF
Program Specialist	1	\$65,000	P
Program Specialist	1	\$65,000	P
Total	2	\$130,000	P

The Program Specialist positions will be tasked with strengthening family engagement and activities in collaboration with stakeholders and State partners. One position will focus on establishing and facilitating a parent council to incorporate parent-voice and feedback in decision-making processes as it pertains to accessing early learning programs and services. The other position will coordinate and assist with the implementation of all grant activities related to the design and development of the comprehensive needs assessment and strategic planning and implementation.

Maintaining the appropriations in EDN 700 will allow EOEL to continue our work to increase early learning opportunities for all young children and the requested additions highlighted above will allow EOEL to enhance our work to assist families with accessing programs and services that benefit their children.

Investing in our youngest keiki yields substantial benefits today and in our future and we thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support on this bill.



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Written Testimony Only

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of

HB 1800 **RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) supports HB 1800, which provides operating and capital improvement appropriations and authorizations for Executive Branch agencies and programs in Fiscal Biennium (FB) 2023-25. We request your favorable consideration of adjustments to the budget as submitted in the Administration Budget request, which includes two CIP line items for NELHA to assist us in carrying out our duties and includes: funding for two capital improvement program projects. They are: 1) \$5,000,000 in general obligation bonds to complete an exploratory potable freshwater well in West Hawaii; and 2) \$17,932,000 for the construction of two roads at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park).

The \$5,000,000 is being requested for the for drilling, casing, and testing of an exploratory potable freshwater well. This is a joint project with the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) The water and development costs will be shared equally between NELHA and HHFDC. This request is only for NELHA's portion of the development costs. It is important to note that \$222,000 was previously expended for well siting studies, such as hydrology and geophysical to locate a possible source; field investigations; environmental assessment; permitting; plans/specifications for the exploratory well. If successful, the next phase will include planning and design of production well for up to 1.5 million gallons per day; storage; access road; and transmission lines if necessary.

The \$17,932,000 is being requested for the construction of two new roads: Kahilihili Street extension from Makako Bay Drive to our southern boundary and is 0.26 miles (\$7.632M); and Pao'o Street is 0.37 miles (\$10.3M). Total construction cost includes design, archaeological monitoring, construction engineering services, HELCO service fees, construction management and contingencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 1800 Relating to the State Budget
DATE: March 6, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer **SUPPORT on HB 1800** which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

For the supplemental year of the biennium, FY 2024-2025, the approved requests for public charter schools and the Commission provided in the Executive Budget are listed below in priority order:

- Collective Bargaining Funding for Salary Increases
 - Increase in general funding: **(\$1,605,000)** for FY2025
Purpose of request: Provide the funding to cover salary increases for Educational Assistants and Vice Principals that were agreed to with the Hawaii Government Employees Association effective starting in Fiscal Year 2023-2024
- Teacher Differential- Actual Costs
 - Increase in general funding: **(\$550,000)** for FY2025
Purpose of request: To cover the actual costs of teacher differentials for eligible charter school teachers. The Legislature has already appropriated \$2,000,000 in

FY24 and FY25 for the differentials; this additional funding is needed to pay for the differentials in full.

- Per Pupil Funding- New Charter School Kulia Academy
 - Increase in Per Pupil (general) funding: **(\$1,090,160)** for FY2025
Purpose of request: To provide the funding for newly opening charter school, Kulia Academy. Kulia Academy will be operating in Kalihi on the island of Oahu with an initial class of 100 students; the school's mission and vision is focused around computer science and the utilization of artificial intelligence.

- Per Pupil Adjustment Placeholder
 - Increase in general (Per Pupil) funding: **(\$12,463,882)** for FY2025
Purpose of request: Statutory adjustment made to equalize per-pupil funding due to proposed adjustments to major DOE program IDs (EDN 100, EDN 200, EDN 300, and EDN 400).

Funding for public charter schools are determined by the operating appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) program IDs (EDN 100, EDN 200, EDN 300, and EDN 400) and the schools' pro rata enrollment compared to the total public education enrollment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

HOUSE BILL NO. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chairperson Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1800, which appropriates funds for operating, and capital improvements of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

ADC strongly supports this Bill to continue its work to grow the agriculture industry and diversify Hawaii's economy. For the Committee's information ADC's operating budget is on page 9 item number 16 of the Bill, and listed below are the additional Operating budget and Capital Improvement requests.

Operating BED170

1. Establish Kauai Property Manager - \$57,558 in Revolving Funds for FY 25. The funds are a half a year's salary to establish a Kauai Property Manager. The position will oversee 18,000 acres of land on Kauai. There is no current staff or position in the area. The position is needed to monitor and properly oversee the ADC's lands on Kauai.

2. Establish Kauai Water System Manager - \$57,558 in Revolving Funds for FY 25
The funds are a half a year's salary to establish a Kauai Water System Manager. The position will oversee (2) water systems that provide irrigation water to 18,000 acres of land on Kauai. There is no current staff or position in the area. The position is needed to conduct proper management of the system for daily operations and for emergency conditions.
3. Vehicle Purchase - \$110,000 in Revolving Funds for FY25
One (1) vehicle for the Property Manager - \$55,000 in Revolving Funds for FY25. For use by Property Manager
One (1) vehicle for the Water System Manager- \$55,000 in Revolving Funds for FY25. For use by the Water System Manager.

Capital Improvements BED170

1. Galbraith Agricultural Lands Improvements, Oahu - \$500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25
The funds will be used to complete cleanup of a site that once contained illegal activity and begin leasing the property to a farmer to generate revenue and agriculture products. The cost is based on a narrowed scope of work resulting from testing and working with the HDOH.
2. Slaughterhouse Facility, Oahu - \$4,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25
The funds will be used for design and construction of infrastructure needed to support a modular slaughter facility for small livestock. The funds will support the need of food safe slaughter facilities required for the industry to grow. Originally \$4MM in general funds was appropriated for FY25 and this request is for reappropriation of the funds as general obligation bonds.
3. Food and Product Innovation Network, Statewide - \$9.500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25.
The funds will be used for planning and development of a statewide Food & Product Innovation Network to support the development of value-added products for the agriculture industry. Originally \$10MM in general funds were appropriated in FY24 and the ADC is requesting reappropriation of funds less the adjusted amount per EM23-08.
4. Water and Irrigation Infrastructure, Oahu - \$4,500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25.
The funds will be used to complete plans and designs of a system to reuse discharge of treated wastewater for irrigation. The plan ends the discharge of treated wastewater into the environment since 1929. Originally \$5MM in general funds were appropriated for FY24 and ADC is requesting re-appropriation of funding less the adjusted amount per EM23-08.
5. Christian Crossing Bridge, Kalepa, Kauai - \$1,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25

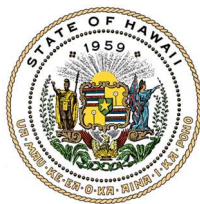
The funds will be used to restore damaged portions of the bridge that provides access to actively farmed lands. The bridge is the secondary access for all of Kauai's northside residents if the Wailua bridge would fail or is damaged.

6. Kekaha Bridge, Kauai - \$2,500,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25
The funds will be used to improve an old bridge used daily by State tenants, members of the community, and visitors. The bridge improvements are needed to make the bridge safe for all users. Not proceeding may result in the bridge failing, causing injury or worse to users.
7. Kekaha Irrigation System Improvements, Kekaha, Kauai - \$6,470,000 in General Obligation bonds for FY 25
The funds will be used to design and construct a system to provide irrigation water to over 1,000 acres of farmland and includes a pressurized hydrant system for fire control. Without funding the 1,000+ acres of farmland cannot be farmed slowing the state's goal to double food production. The adjoining 5,000+ acres of non-farmlands and the neighboring community are at higher risk of wildfires.

These requests support critical infrastructure and foundations for agriculture as the state works to achieve food security and self-sufficiency, address drought mitigation, wildfire mitigation, water sustainability and the health and safety of the public.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Before the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

Testifier: Jordan Lowe

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **supports** H.B. 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for the fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Additionally, the DLE respectfully requests your consideration of the additional budget request to fund fifty (50) additional positions to provide increased law enforcement presence at the airports and harbors throughout the state.

The Department of Transportation agreed and approved the request by the Department of Law Enforcement (LAW) for the additional forty (40) airport positions and ten (10) harbor positions along with their equipment & vehicles.

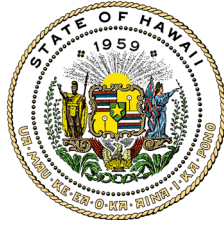
Prog ID/Org	Item Description	MOF	FY 2025
LAW503SA	Personal Services – Airport (40) & Harbor (10)	U	5,655,116
LAW503SA	Other Current Expenses	U	185,300
LAW503SA	Equipment	U	404,450
LAW503SA	Motor Vehicles	U	322,725

DLE will provide law enforcement for areas of the State that are increasingly in need of law enforcement including the commercial airports and harbors, and law enforcement support of county police in our communities.

DLE Airport Sheriffs will provide two (2) Sheriff per 8-hour shift (3 Shifts total) at each airport (Lihue, Maui, Hilo, Kona, and Honolulu) for a total of thirty (30) Positions. DLE is also requesting to add 1.0 Lieutenant, 1.0 Sergeant and 8.0 Deputy Sheriffs to meet minimum law enforcement and security requirements for the expanding operational areas of the Daniel K Inouye International Airport to include the new Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) and the two (2) HART Rail Stations within the Honolulu jurisdictional area. Ten (10) additional Sheriffs are needed to provide necessary law enforcement support to the category X airport (the largest & busiest airport classification).

DLE is requesting to fund an additional ten (10) positions at the Harbors. The allocations are as follows. Two (2) harbor enforcement officers each at Honolulu Harbor, Hilo Harbor, Kawaihae Harbor, Kahului Harbor, and Nawiliwili Harbor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REP. LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 308

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **strongly supports** HB1800.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates operating funds for FY2023-2025 for the EOA.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium
- 5 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive
- 6 Branch agencies and programs. EOA's operating budget is outlined in the Program
- 7 Appropriations section on page 39, No. 25 HTH 904 of HB1800.
- 8 As Hawai'i's aging population continues to grow, the need for investment in long term care
- 9 services and supports increases. Sufficient appropriations are required to assure the health,
- 10 safety, and independence of our kūpuna. We appreciate your consideration of this bill.

- 1 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports this measure and respectfully requests your support
- 2 of EOA's operating budget.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Testimony of Warren Haruki
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2024 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

Measure: HB1800, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) **strongly supports** this measure.

The proposed executive supplemental budget includes requests that support all the keiki of Hawaii, including those that sustain and further the work of the public education system that nurtures their learning and social-emotional well-being.

The Board supports legislation that addresses the needs identified in the Department of Education's and Hawaii State Public Library System's Board-approved supplemental operating and capital improvement program budget requests for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The Board also supports funding and/or legislation that expands access to quality early learning opportunities for more children and/or promotes the development of more high-quality early educators. As you are aware, the Department also faces federal COVID funding cliffs, which exacerbates the supplemental budget challenges.

The Board thanks the Committee for its favorable consideration. We have also mentioned in budget briefings that there are additional needs beyond those included in the current draft of the budget bill – we prefer that the Department's and HSPLS's supplemental operating and capital improvement budget requests, as approved by the Board at its October 4, 2023, special meeting, be included. However, we recognize the State's fiscal situation given the costs of the Maui wildfire response.

Investing in Hawaii's students means investing in our state's future.

Mahalo for your consideration, and for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2024 Regular Session

House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

by:

Dr. Erin E. Harbinson

Director, Criminal Justice Research Institute

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1800 – Relating to the State Budget

Purpose: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Judiciary's Position:

The Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI) supports the funding requests made by the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in House Bill No. 1800 – Relating to the State Budget. HCSOC was established in the same law as CJRI - Act 179 (2019). Although each organization has separate duties and missions, both are focused on providing information important to improving the criminal justice system. CJRI is developing a pretrial database and reporting system to provide data informing HCSOC's work, and their commission requires resources to make recommendations that will improve the correctional system. CJRI defers to the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, regarding the funds necessary to staff and operate the HCSOC in order to fulfill its duties under the law.

The national landscape on correctional oversight commissions demonstrates a diverse range of organizations tasked with reviewing and reporting out on correctional systems. A

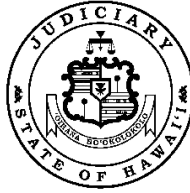


House Bill No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Page 2

review of these oversight bodies by Deitch (2020) found that one of the biggest challenges in these commissions was acquiring the funds and resources necessary to conduct their work, which includes site visits, investigations, reporting, and many other necessary tasks.¹ Without adequate staffing and resources, they are unable to improve the criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ **Michelle Y. Deitch**, *But Who Oversees the Overseers?: The Status of Prison and Jail Oversight in the United States*, 47 *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW* 207 (Summer 2020).



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2024 Regular Session

House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

by

Brook Mamizuka
Probation Administrator, First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget.

Purpose: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports the funding provisions in this measure relating to the Community Outreach Court. Since 2017, through Act 55 (SLH 2017), the Judiciary, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, and the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i have collaborated to address and resolve legal matters faced by many of O'ahu's homeless population. In its six year history, the Community Outreach Court has held monthly court sessions throughout O'ahu in each of the following areas: the Waianae coast, urban Honolulu core, and Windward O'ahu. The court has addressed more than 10,000 cases, recalled more than 900 bench warrants, lifted more than 6,000 driver license stoppers, and assisted more than 600 participants with social services or referrals.

The Judiciary respectfully requests an amendment in this measure to the mechanism for appropriating funds for the Judiciary's administration of the Community Outreach Court program. Currently, in the first year of each fiscal biennium, the Judiciary's share of funding for



House Bill No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Page 2

the program is provided through an appropriation to the Office of the Public Defender, and then a portion of that is transferred to the Judiciary. For improved fiscal efficiency, we request that the Judiciary's share of this funding be deleted from the General Appropriations Act (HB 1800) and instead instituted via an add-on to the Judiciary Appropriations Act of 2024 (HB 1911, HD1 and SB 2374, SD1). More specifically, we request that the Judiciary's share of Community Outreach Court funding be added to the appropriation for the First Judicial Circuit (program ID JUD310). Consistent with permanent establishment of the program, amending the mechanism of funding—directly to JUD310 rather than through the General Appropriations Act to the Office of the Public Defender and then a journal voucher transfer to the Judiciary—would be more efficient.

We further request that any appropriation to administer and operate the Community Outreach Court program does not supplant the Judiciary's other existing funding nor budget requests.

It should be noted that in this current Legislative session, Senate Bill No. 2556, S.D. 1 and House Bill No. 1954, H.D. 1, both relate to permanently establishing the Community Outreach Court and appropriating funding for this purpose. If the Community Outreach Court becomes permanent and funding is appropriated through either of these measures, then this portion of House Bill No. 1800 relating to Community Outreach Court would be unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ

235 S. Beretania Street, 16TH Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday, March 6; 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) **supports** House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget, as it encompasses an appropriation for the Attorney General's Office to include the Oversight Commission in the base budget.

In 2019, the Hawaii legislature found that, "independent oversight of the State's correctional system ensures transparency, supports safe conditions for employees, inmates, and detainees, and provides positive reform towards a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system." Therefore, Act 179 of 2019 was passed and Chapter 353L of the Hawaii Revised Statute was created. However, despite these legislative efforts, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission has faced numerous challenges in securing and maintaining adequate funding.

Presently, the Oversight Commission operates without a permanent allocation in the State's base budget. In fiscal year 2022, the Commission submitted its full budget request in the amount of \$534,388, however the House and Senate did not concur, and the Commission therefore was not funded. Instead, Governor Green funded the Oversight Commission for one year, and those funds lapse on June 30, 2024.

Out of respect for Maui and the State's duty to support Lahaina, the Commission has pursued a modest request of \$452,134 for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), which will be channeled through the Office of the Attorney General. These funds will support four full-time positions and the vital travel and other activities necessary for the Commission to effectively fulfill its mandated duties, ensuring the continuity of office operations and staff.

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statute 353L, the Commission is tasked with overseeing the correctional system, investigating complaints, establishing inmate population limits, and ensuring the proper functioning of the comprehensive offender reentry system. Since the Commission's

establishment in 2020, the Commission has made significant strides, particularly with the hiring of dedicated staff and the initiation of vital oversight activities.

In 2023 alone, the Commission conducted 35 facility investigative visits, issued 23 public reports, and held 16 public meetings. These efforts have resulted in over 50 recommendations to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, contributing to tangible improvements in our correctional system. Examples of these recommendations include:

- Ensuring basic federal standards and requirements are understood and followed, including proper access to court, bedframes/bunkbeds in cells, access to clothing and bedding, access to outdoor recreation, and access to menstrual pads.
- Painting and reconfiguring cells for those on suicide-watch for a more therapeutic environment.
- Restoring contact visits to ensure stronger family ties and better success in reentry.
- Ensuring that vehicles are not parked in the sally port unless in active use, and that the sally port gates are secured unless a vehicle is entering or leaving to prevent a potential escape of detainees.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) has been a supportive and imperative partner in ensuring a more rehabilitative and therapeutic corrections system for their staff and incarcerated population. In addition to working closely with the DCR, the Oversight Commission and its staff have diligently cultivated relationships to enhance their understanding of community and governmental needs pertaining to public safety and the need for effective reentry. Commission staff have forged partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including community organizations, State agencies, City and County agencies, and community members at large. This is evident in the public endorsements from over 50 impacted community members and local agencies including:

- United Public Workers (UPW)
- Hawai'i Paroling Authority
- Hawai'i Criminal Justice Research Institute
- State of Hawai'i Judiciary
- State of Hawai'i Office of the Public Defender
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Innocence Project
- Women's Prison Project
- Community Alliance on Prisons
- Pu'a Foundation
- Tahirih Association
- 'Ekolu Mea Nui
- Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice
- Ohana E' Ho'opakele
- Maui Economic Opportunity
- Going Home Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Hawai'i

It is crucial to recognize that without funding and adequate resources, the Commission's ability to fulfill its mandate in ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations is severely compromised. This could jeopardize the State's ability to maintain accountability within its correctional system and increase the risk of state lawsuits and costly federal interventions. Additionally, the ramifications extend beyond budgetary concerns as oversight is imperative to safeguarding the rights and well-being of incarcerated individuals, staff members who work in the correctional facilities, and the broader community.

Therefore, when evaluating the state of corrections and the allocation of funds towards correctional, reentry, and rehabilitative initiatives in Hawaii, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission stands as a pivotal investment for driving systemic transformation.

For all the reasons stated above, the Oversight Commission supports HB1800 as it will secure funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission within the State's base budget, enabling the Commission to sustain its crucial efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
45-495 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Phone 808-305-0000 • Fax 808-235-9185

Date: 03/06/2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education
Person Testifying: Derek Minakami, NBCT, Principal of Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Title of Bill: HB 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Position: OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

As principal of Kāneʻohe Elementary, a non-Title I school that has utilized \$1.1 million in ESSR funds over the past three years, including for summer learning, I humbly request that you restore the DOE's board approved budget.

We are already making reductions to our personnel including the number of tutors we employ for learning acceleration and delaying professional development to adjust for the loss of ESSR funds. Consequently, any cuts to the Weighted Student Formula will significantly impact our services such as cutting our tutoring services more drastically, eliminating free summer school to students who are one to two grade levels behind and reducing staff who assisted in successfully improving our attendance.

Mahalo for your consideration of this request.

Derek Minakami



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:00 a.m.
In consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer our support for HB1800. We appreciate the inclusion of the administration's \$60 million request with 25 positions in this budget. This appropriation will allow us to operate our basic essential programs with limited implementation of destination management and stewardship activities.

We also appreciate the inclusion of an expenditure ceiling for the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund as well as the appropriation of \$64 million in CIP funds to repair the Hawai'i Convention Center rooftop - re-appropriating funds that were appropriated in Act 164, SLH 2023 and subsequently transferred to B&F for 2023 Wildfires per Executive Memo 23-08. Both are important to our effective stewardship of this important state asset.

HTA is poised and eager to continue our work, and we appreciate the appropriations in HB1800 toward that end. Mahalo for the opportunity to express this support.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 6, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB300 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HB1800**, relating to the specific budget items from the budget worksheet noted below. This measure adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

HTH 905- Developmental Disabilities Council
Page 336, Structure No 050503000000

HTH905 FY2024 FY2025
2.50 * 2.50 *
HTH 258,039 A 262,940 A
5.00 * 5.00 *
HTH 527,570 N 527,570 N

This appropriation amount in HB1800 provides the Council with current staffing and fiscal resources in order to implement 2023-2025 State Plan activities in the areas of community supports; health and children and youth; public awareness, education and training; transition and employment; and self-advocacy/self-determination.

Activities include policy development, implementation, and analysis; informing and educating policymakers about Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD); establishing networks and coalitions on specific issues and concerns relating to developmental disabilities; conducting legislative advocacy training; providing leadership training; demonstrating new approaches to services and supports; fostering interagency collaboration and communication; coordinating and sponsoring the annual Day at the Capitol, transition events, and neighbor island of Oahu legislative forums, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HB1800**, relating to the specific budget items noted above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dainty Bantua".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1800

TITLE: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

DESCRIPTION: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

POSITION:

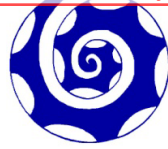
The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports this Administration bill to make necessary adjustments and appropriations requests for fiscal biennium 2023-2025.

The Commission appreciates the Committee’s consideration of proposed adjustments and appropriations in this important bill that will provide needed support for the Commission to continue its operations and address the anticipated increase in workload in the coming fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



FAITH KAHALE SAITO
Acting Chairperson

DAWN N.S. CHANG
'ĀNELA EVANS
SAUMALU MATAAFA
BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D
MICHELLE PESCAIA
KEONI SOUZA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director

KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWÉ

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPT'I
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 1800 adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. Even though, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) does not have any funding request in this year's measure, the KIRC supports this measure and respectfully request that if there is any funding is available at the end of all the other State's priorities, that some funds could be found to provide for additional KIRC manpower.

The KIRC is the single government agency responsible to provide and maintain on-island infrastructure and services on Kaho'olawe. Our on-island responsibilities include operating and maintaining an OSHA standard, field workcamp to support staff and a volunteer workforce while restoring the devastated landscape of Kahoolawe.

Last year's biennium budget, Act 164 SLH 2023, appropriated additional operational funding for KIRC to maintain and operate on-island, Kaho'olawe infrastructure. The KIRC is very appreciative for the increase in its funding and for that reason did not submit any additional request this year. But, the KIRC has always been shorthanded in conducting the necessary operations to sustain and restore Kaho'olawe and request if any funding is available that the KIRC would greatly benefit with additional manpower.

We are seeking three field personnel (3.0 FTE) and one administrative personnel (1.0 FTE). All these new positions would be based on Maui, which would significantly help with providing employment opportunities for displaced and fire-affected Maui residents.

Specifically, we are requesting funding to establish two (2) positions, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist III (KIR III) and Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist II (KIR II) to support boating operations, logistical and field support as necessary; one (1) Ocean Resource Specialist II to support on-island coastal management, restoration, and protection; and one (1) Program Specialist III/IV to support management of grant applications, budgets, expenses, and reimbursements. This last position will focus on increasing KIRC revenue from federal and non-governmental sources.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 6, 2024
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Additionally, the DOT respectfully requests your consideration of the additional budget request to fund fifty (50) additional positions within the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) to provide increased law enforcement presence at the airports and harbors throughout the state.

Amount

\$5,345,741 (B) State Airport Funds (40 DLE positions)
\$1,221,850 (B) State Harbor Funds (10 DLE positions)

Program ID From Which Funds Will Be Allotted

TRN 195/BB Airports Administration
TRN 301/CC Honolulu Harbor
TRN 311/CD Hilo Harbor
TRN 313/CD Kawaihae Harbor
TRN 331/CF Kahului Harbor
TRN 361/CG Nawiliwili Harbor

DLE is required to provide law enforcement for areas of the State that are increasingly in need of law enforcement including the commercial airports and harbors, and law enforcement support of county police in our communities.

The DLE request from Airports Administration (TRN 195/BB) will provide two (2) Sheriff per 8-hour shift (3 Shifts total) at each airport (Lihue, Maui, Hilo, Kona, and Honolulu) for a total of thirty (30) Positions. DLE is also requesting to add 1.0 Lieutenant, 1.0 Sergeant and 8.0 Deputy Sheriffs to meet minimum law enforcement and security requirements for the expanding operational areas of the Daniel K Inouye International

Airport to include the new Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) and the two (2) HART Rail Stations within the Honolulu jurisdictional area. The ten (10) additional Sheriffs are needed to provide necessary law enforcement support to the airport.

The request from DLE to Harbors is to fund an additional ten (10) positions. The allocations are as follows. Two (2) harbor enforcement officers each at Honolulu Harbor (TRN 301/CC), Hilo Harbor (TRN 311/CD), Kawaihae Harbor (TRN 313/CD), Kahului Harbor (TRN 331/CF), and Nawiliwili Harbor (TRN 361/CG).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Rebecca V. Like
Prosecuting Attorney



Keola Siu
First Deputy
Prosecuting Attorney

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758
Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Thirty-third State Legislature
Regular session of 2024
State of Hawai'i
March 5, 2024

RE: HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget

Dear Chair Yamashita:

The County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget, in so far as it includes an appropriation for the Attorney General's Office to include the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

Funding the HCSOC is an investment in public safety that will more than pay for itself. It is unfortunate that the Commission needs to devote valuable time and resources to securing funding each year. This detracts from their ability to serve the public.

Since the HCSOC has been staffed, I have had the opportunity to work directly with multiple members. Each individual member brings unparalleled experience and insight. It is refreshing to be able to discuss obstacles to progress both within our existing correctional institutions and upon reentry for individuals getting released. The amount of money being appropriated for the HCSOC is a drop in the bucket when considered against the amount of cost savings for the State because of their work. Their work saves lives and prevents costly litigation due to unaddressed issues.

My first contact with the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission was through my appointment to the Women's Correctional Implementation Commission. This Commission was mandated by House Bill 2312 and became law upon the Governor's signature of Act 244 in July of 2022. The WCIC met with the Director of the HCSOC prior to our in person visit to the Women's Prison on Oahu. Her insight into conditions within the facility for both those incarcerated and those working there was invaluable.

Following that meeting, I personally reached out to Christin Johnson when I scheduled a trip for our Deputy Prosecutors and staff to our local jail, the Kauai Community Correctional Center. Again, Ms. Johnson's insight was invaluable. She was able to point out things to pay attention to, both assets and liabilities within the correctional center.

I had the opportunity to interact with the members of the HCSOC when I spoke at the Breaking Cycles Symposium hosted by the Hawaii Community Design Center at the HCSOC Coordinator's invitation. I spoke on a panel about diversion and deflection programs in our Office on Kauai.

Most recently, our Office secured a \$1 million federal grant through the Bureau of Justice Administration through the Second Chance Act Pay for Success. This grant will fund a 5-year program to do re-entry work. Specifically, individuals getting released from incarceration will be paired with a case worker to assist them in accessing resources. Again, the HCSOC was an integral part of the planning and strategizing to make this project a success.

The work of the HCSOC is vitally important to public safety in the State of Hawaii. Without funding, the Commission will close its doors in three months. Throughout the continent, more than twenty states have similar commissions.

The work of the HCSOC has been critical to our Office accomplishing our goals of advocating for public safety using evidence-based models. Further, the Coordinator has been instrumental in helping our Office navigate connections between State agencies and community-based organizations to reduce recidivism for individuals being released from incarceration. The value the HCSOC brings is much more than the appropriated funding of \$452,134 for Fiscal Year 2025. For these reasons, the County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports HB 1800 inasmuch as it appropriates funds for the HCSOC.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

/s/Rebecca Like

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LOIO HO'OPI'I

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515 • WEBSITE: www.honoluluprosecutor.org

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I



**THE HONORABLE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawai'i**

March 6, 2024

RE: H.B. 1800; RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony supporting the Governor’s supplemental request in H.B. 1800, which appropriates funding for the statewide Career Criminal Prosecution Program (CCP) and Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWP).

The Department takes no position on most sections of the bill, but respectfully requests the funding for CCP and VWP appearing in ATG 100 (SEQ # 101-001). We sincerely thank the Committee for its past support of these programs, and hope that sufficient funding can be provided to continue these valuable programs at their current level of service.

The Department supports the supplemental funding of \$1,081,735 to support statewide CCP and \$1,375,015 in support of statewide VWP. Honolulu’s portion of this budget comes in the form of **\$747,267** to provide full staffing within our department’s Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCU), and **\$736,785** to maintain the current level of service for our Victim Witness Kokua Services Division (VWKS). These are the additional amounts necessary to sustain the balance between actual costs, and costs covered by funding from the City and County of Honolulu, funding from the Department of the Attorney General, and (for VWKS only) federal funds. Last year, this supplemental funding was provided for FY 2024, the first year of the biennium, but was unfunded for FY 2025.

Pursuant to the legislative mandate passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the CCP program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple-

and repeat-felony offenders, commonly known as "career criminals." To address this ongoing problem, the State created the Career Criminal Prosecution program, which it originally funded annually. In the past, our department CCU has periodically been scaled back, when there was insufficient funding to maintain full staffing. Money spent on CCU is an efficient use of resources, as it provides citizens with swift and effective justice, reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays. With your support, the Department will continue to have the tools necessary to protect our public from career criminals.

Similarly, VWKS advocates are specially qualified and trained to assist in guiding victims, witnesses and/or surviving family members through the criminal justice system—throughout the prosecution of a case—at a level that our deputies are unable to do. Historically, the Legislature has supported the Victim Witness Assistance Program since 1983. In 1986, the Legislature enacted HRS §28-111, which established the VWP program on a statewide basis. While the statute established this program within the Department of the Attorney General, all direct services are provided by each county's prosecuting attorney, in order to provide the most up-to-date information, assistance, funding, and support services to the crime victims and witnesses in their respective counties. Adequate funding is necessary for our Department to be able to continue these vital services.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu **respectfully requests that the Committee provide supplemental funding for the State's Career Criminal Program and Victim Witness Program** which includes vital funding for our department's Career Criminal Prosecution Unit and our Victim Witness Kokua Services Division. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 12:45:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorenn Walker	Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear honorable members of the Finance Committee, mahalo for your public service and for considering our strong support for funding the Corrections Oversight Committee's budget included in the Attorney General's request in HB1800 Relating to the State Budget.

[Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice](#) (HFRJ) is a 40+ year nonprofit. We are an educational entity that works to help individuals and organizations live cooperatively & peacefully. HFRJ provides, researches, writes about, and publishes the outcomes of its innovative projects to contribute to best practices and evidence-based knowledge about what can help increase peace, civic engagement, healing and reconciliation for individuals and communities.

Originally, HFRJ was not in favor of establishing the Commission because we feared it would simply be another bureaucratic government agency without value for improving things for people in our state. We are thrilled to have witnessed that this was an incorrect fear. The volunteer Commissioners and its small staff have helped shed light on how our corrections system needs better management, which is harmful for our community, e.g., repeat crime, waste of resources, hurts children, etc., and it has offered up solutions.

Especially now, when the corrections and rehabilitation department (formerly department of public safety) is asking for about \$300 MILLION a year for the incarceration of about 4000 individuals (with a dismally high repeat crime rate, lack of services, etc.), and is also asking for almost ONE BILLION dollars for a new prison, having the Commission oversee the department is more vital than ever. It is incumbent upon you to ensure the department is overseen properly. Please support full funding for the Corrections Oversight Commission.

Please contact me at lorenn@hawaiifriends.org if you have any questions about our support for this funding. Mahalo again for your service.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH

HFRJ Director



Date: March 4th, 2024

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Hawai`i Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC)

Re: Support for **HB1800**, Relating to the State Budget

The Early Intervention Section is advised by the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC). The HEICC is established as required by state law ([Hawaii Revised Statutes §321-353](#)) and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

HEICC strongly supports passage of HB1800. We specifically support increased salaries for Early Intervention Services (EIS) specialists who provide critical services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and cognitive and social and emotional supports for keiki **birth to 3 years old**. The request is for ~4.9M and is reflected under Family Health Services Division (HTH560) Item 4, pg. 31. The request includes both salary increases and associated operational costs.

Hawai`i currently has a 25-30% vacancy rate in the field of early intervention specialists and salary rates are one of the leading reasons. The salary increases will not only recruit new specialists but will retain the ones we have. When we have shortages, our keiki do not get the supports that they are mandated to receive, which can result in further developmental delays. And when we have pandemics or environmental disasters, early interventionists are even more needed to reach families to mitigate the negative impacts of the trauma. **Invest early** to save on service costs down the road when keiki have more complicated challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB1800**.

Kerrie A. Urosevich, PhD
Chair, Hawai`i Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC)

Life of the Land has supported open government for more than 50 years. It is critical that governmental entities promote transparent, open processes, where community voices can participate in meaningful, equitable ways.

Democracy strives in open access. Black boxes hinder community engagement.

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission has successfully opened the jail and prison black box. The Oversight Coordinator has conducted 35 facility visits, twenty-three public reports including monthly reports, facility-specific reports, two strategic plans, one year in review, and sixteen public meetings in just two years. This is an amazing track record!

Please support the amazing work of the Correctional Oversight Commission, a model for transparency and accountability – a real democracy - that all agencies should follow to promote and build trust in government.

Please support creating a line for HCSOC in the budgets from now on. This work is too important to leave to chance every year.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle Yamashita , Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:00AM

Room 308 & Videoconference

STRONG SUPPORT FOR BUDGET LINE IN HB 1800 FOR THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for thirty years. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,857 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on February 29, 2024. We are always mindful that 858 - 44% of the male prison population of 1,972 - are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons (CAP) appreciates this opportunity to testify in strong support for a budget line in HB 1800 and forward for the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission (HCSOC) that is administratively attached to the Office of the Attorney General (ATG 100).

WHAT HCSOC HAS ACCOMPLISHED:

HCSOC has lifted the veil of secrecy so the public can actually see where our hard-earned tax dollars are spent in the correctional area. CAP has been at the legislature for 30

¹ DPS/DCR Weekly Population Report, February 29, 2024.

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2024-02-29.pdf>

years and we have never seen this degree of community engagement, accountability, and transparency in any agency...ever. They are responsive to the community and to the people inside who are trapped in the correctional web.

HCSOC operated with no staff and no funding for almost 3 years and after receiving funding and hiring a Coordinator, in less than 2 years they have ...

- released a plethora of reports WITH DATA, including monthly reports, facility-specific reports, 2 strategic plans, and 1 year in review,
- conducted 35 facility visits including those bringing legislators and judges into different facilities,
- held 16 public meetings

WHY CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT IS SO IMPORTANT:

CAP understands that oversight can help Hawai`i's transition from a punitive system to one that is more therapeutic and rehabilitative. This is a process and we should all welcome the help and expertise of people with experience that can help with this transition.

HCSOC has proven not only that they are up to the task to help with this effort, but that the HCSOC staff will use their experience and their resources to make Hawai`i's correctional system the best it can be!

HCSOC has submitted more than 50 reports to the Department of Public Safety, now the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, based on their observations, experience, state/federal regulations, and best practices. This is crucial, since it is difficult for someone immersed in the system to be objective. It is good to have a neutral entity that can help the department achieve compliance with state and federal regulations and the department's stated goals.

The state has constitutional mandates regarding the treatment of incarcerated persons, therefore, it is crucial that the state comply with those mandates. A tour of HCCC found some cells were locked with padlocks - this is not only a violation, it is dangerous and life-threatening if there were a fire or other reason for an emergency evacuation.

Another issue that could have caused major problems for Hawai`i was the department's electronic medical records. **Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Down since June 2022** . On August 10, 2022, the Coordinator learned that the Electronic Medical Record (EMR)

had been down since June 2022 causing staff to rely on a paper/pen-based system with no clear indication of when the EMR would be back up for staff utilization. This issue was immediately addressed with the Department of Public Safety with clear urgency. The Coordinator explained that this is a crisis for those in custody because:

- 1) Patient safety and health is at risk without a functioning EMR.
- 2) EMRs are necessary to ensure consistency in care across multiple providers.
- 3) EMRs ensure medications are appropriately administered and documented to lessen risk to patient's health and tracking of medication used, especially when being transferred across facilities.
- 4) From a cost perspective, EMRs reduce time spent on documentation as there are often templates and order sets to improve efficiency.
- 5) Additionally, this is massive liability for the Department.

These are only a couple of examples of how HCSOC has alerted the department of problems before they turn into big, expensive issues.

Hawai'i's correctional system needs oversight, especially now, as we work on transitioning to a system that embraces our values of aloha that families hold dear. We hope that you see the value in oversight of our correctional system and will pass the budget under ATG 100 to fund the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission and establish a budget line so they can proceed with their excellent work to reform our correctional system.

Mahalo for listening and for your work putting together a budget that serves all of Hawai'i's families, especially in this difficult time.

Hawai`i True Cost Coalition

DATE: March 6, 2024
TIME: 10:00AM
PLACE: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 308
BILL: HB1800, Relating to the State Budget
Committee: House Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai`i True Cost Coalition (TCC), we are writing in support of HB1800 relating to the State Budget.

The TCC is comprised of over 50 community based nonprofit organizations, serving over 500,000 of people across the state, that have come together to ensure that government funding adequately and sustainably covers the true costs of providing governmental services by Hawai`i community-based nonprofit organizations.

We support increases to contracts that the state has with community-based nonprofit organizations to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities. Many of these contracts have not been increased for over a decade, while program expenses including wages, utilities and administrative costs have all increased. Despite the rising costs, local nonprofits have continued to provide these critical services, relying on their own resources to fill this gap, which is no longer sustainable. Increased funding for these contracts will help ensure the continuation of these essential programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1800.



Date: March 4, 2024

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for **HB1800**, Relating to the State Budget

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS strongly supports passage of HB1800. ECAS strongly supports passage of HB1800. We specifically support increased salaries for Early Intervention Services (EIS) specialists who provide critical services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and cognitive and social and emotional supports for keiki **birth to 3 years old**. The request is for ~4.9M and is reflected under Family Health Services Division (HTH560) Item 4, pg. 31. The request includes both salary increases and associated operational costs.

Hawai'i currently has a 25-30% vacancy rate in the field of early intervention specialists and salary rates are one of the leading reasons. The salary increases will not only recruit new specialists but will retain the ones we have. When we have shortages, our keiki do not get the supports that they are mandated to receive, which can result in further developmental delays. And when we have pandemics or environmental disasters, early interventionists are even more needed to reach families to mitigate the negative impacts of the trauma. **Invest early** to save on service costs down the road when keiki have more complicated challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB1800**.



The University of Texas at Austin
Prison and Jail Innovation Lab
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs

2315 Red River • MC #E2700 • Austin, Texas 78712 • (512) 296-7212

Michele Deitch, Director • michele.deitch@austin.utexas.edu

March 5, 2024

Re: Support for HB 1800
(Funding for the Correctional System Oversight Commission)

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Michele Deitch, and I direct the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, where I also am a Distinguished Senior Lecturer. The [Prison and Jail Innovation Lab \(PJIL\)](#) is a national policy resource center seeking to ensure the safe and humane treatment of people in custody. PJIL also operates the [National Resource Center for Correctional Oversight \(NRCCO\)](#), which works with policymakers and advocates to improve oversight of prisons and jails. **I write in strong support of HB 1800, which would provide dedicated funding to support Hawaii's Correctional System Oversight Commission (CSOC).**

By way of background, my research and expertise is in the field of prison oversight. I have written numerous articles on this subject, including "[But Who Oversees the Overseers?: The Status of Prison and Jail Oversight in the United States](#)," and I co-chair the American Bar Association's Subcommittee on Correctional Oversight. I have also served as a federal court-appointed monitor of conditions in the Texas prison system, and I have served as General Counsel to the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

More than 35 years of working in this field have persuaded me that independent oversight is absolutely critical for the safe and humane operation of prisons. Prisons are among the most opaque institutions in our society, and the public and policymakers have very little idea what actually happens behind the razor wire fences. Insular environments like these put people in custody at risk of abuse, neglect, unsafe or inadequate conditions, poor health measures, and ineffective programming. But independent oversight such as that provided by the CSOC shines a light on what is happening behind bars, and that transparency is necessary for ensuring the safety, well-being, and rehabilitation of people who are incarcerated.

The Oversight Commission is requesting \$462,134 for FY25 which includes four full-time positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, and office equipment. This is an extremely modest amount for the benefits the state receives from the Commission's work. It is a fraction of the amount appropriated for most of the country's

other correctional oversight organizations. And it saves the state money through early identification of problems that can lead to injuries, deaths, and lawsuits.

Hawaii's prison oversight body was a long time in coming. It was finally established by the Legislature in 2019, following a multi-year study by a blue-ribbon task force that recognized the need for more transparency and accountability in how the state operated its prisons. The Oversight Commission operated throughout the COVID years with only volunteer Commissioners, until it finally received some limited funding in 2022 that allowed for the hiring of staff. What the CSOC has been able to do, even with a small budget, has been truly remarkable. In 2023 alone, the CSOC conducted 35 facility visits, issued 23 public reports, held 16 public meetings, and issued more than 50 recommendations to the PSD/DCR. The Oversight Commission has brought attention to critical problems in the state's prisons, been a voice for incarcerated people and their families, and been the eyes and ears of legislators who have responsibility for funding the corrections agency. In just a few short years, Hawaii's CSOC has gained a national reputation for the excellent quality of its work and the effectiveness of the oversight they provide.

Providing the dedicated funding for the CSOC in the AG's budget is essential for the protection of people in custody and for ensuring increased transparency and accountability for what is happening in Hawaii's prisons. I urge your support for this funding by passing HB 1800.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Deitch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michele Deitch, J.D., M.Sc.
Director, Prison and Jail Innovation Lab
National Resource Center for Correctional Oversight

Distinguished Senior Lecturer,
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and
UT School of Law
The University of Texas at Austin



March 5, 2024

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita
Chair
House Committee on Finance
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita,

I am reaching out today on behalf the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), to support the necessary funding that HB1800 would provide for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission's (HCSOC). NACOLE is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) association of oversight practitioners, law enforcement officials, and supporters of civilian oversight that works to enhance accountability and transparency in policing and build community trust through civilian oversight. We remain the preeminent organization dedicated to the support of civilian oversight of law enforcement, jails, and prisons.

One of the more important principles guiding effective oversight outlines the need for adequate budget and staffing. Ensuring that an oversight agency has adequate resources to carry out its mandate is crucial to its overall success. Inadequate budgetary levels interfere with the ability to have the number of skilled staff needed to conduct the work in a timely and thorough manner. Beyond allowing for the agency to carry out its mandate, appropriate funding levels signals a commitment to the community that its government supports civilian oversight of law enforcement, jails, and prisons, and the accountability and transparency such mechanisms bring.

Including the HCSOC appropriation in the base budget of the Attorney General' appropriation will ensure that this important and effective mechanism continues to receive funding and, as a result, allow it to focus on its critical role. It is my understanding that the work over the last year alone has proved incredibly beneficial to the correctional system: 50+ recommendations to PSD/DCR, 35 facility visits, 23 public reports, and 16 public meetings. This work helps to identify and provide solutions for existing systemic issues and, as a result, build community trust and create better conditions for both those working and those incarcerated in Hawaii's correctional system.

When there is a lack of independence, adequate funding, and the staff needed to support effective oversight it can send a message that initiatives like the one that brought the current oversight mechanism into existence are no longer being supported. Because of this, NACOLE stands by the need for

P.O. Box 20851 ♦ Indianapolis, Indiana 46220 ♦ (317)721-8133

E-mail: info@nacole.org ♦ Website: www.nacole.org

jurisdictions to make sure the principles of effective oversight are being adhered to and is here to act as a resource. I am happy to answer any questions you might regarding effective, sustainable oversight moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cameron McElhiney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "M".

Cameron McElhiney
Executive Director
NACOLE



March 6, 2024

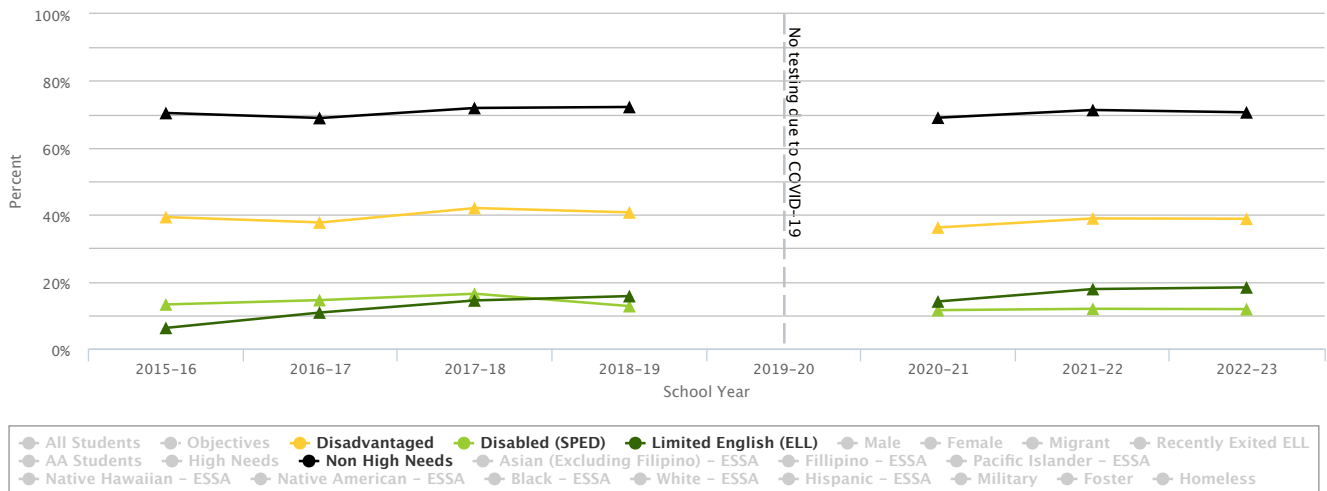
Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

We support HB 1800.

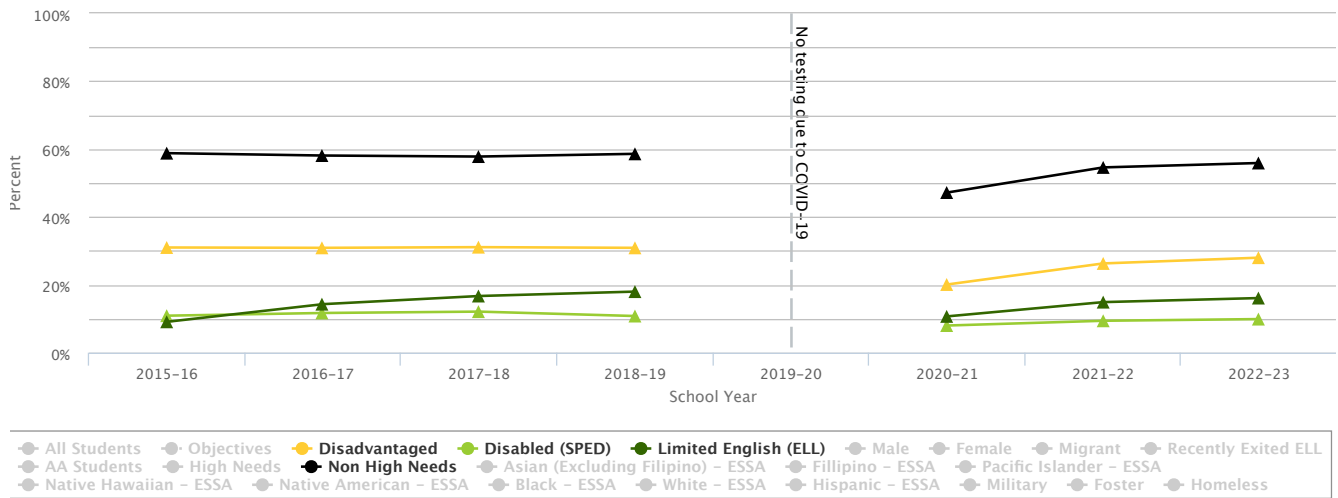
With respect to the DOE budget, we advocate that priority should be given to sufficient funding of resources directly to schools through the Weighted Student Formula (WSF). Although it was not included in the Executive Budget, we advocate that the \$27M additional WSF funds for all schools and the \$6M WSF funds to small schools in the BOE approved budget be added back to the state budget.

Students are still recovering from disruptions resulting from the pandemic and the Maui Wildfire, with the greatest impact on our high-needs students. The tables below show the percentage of students meeting English Language Arts (ELA), math, and science standards from the 2015-2016 school year to the 2022-2023 school year. The gap between non-high needs students and economically-disadvantaged, English Learner, and Special Education students is alarmingly wide.

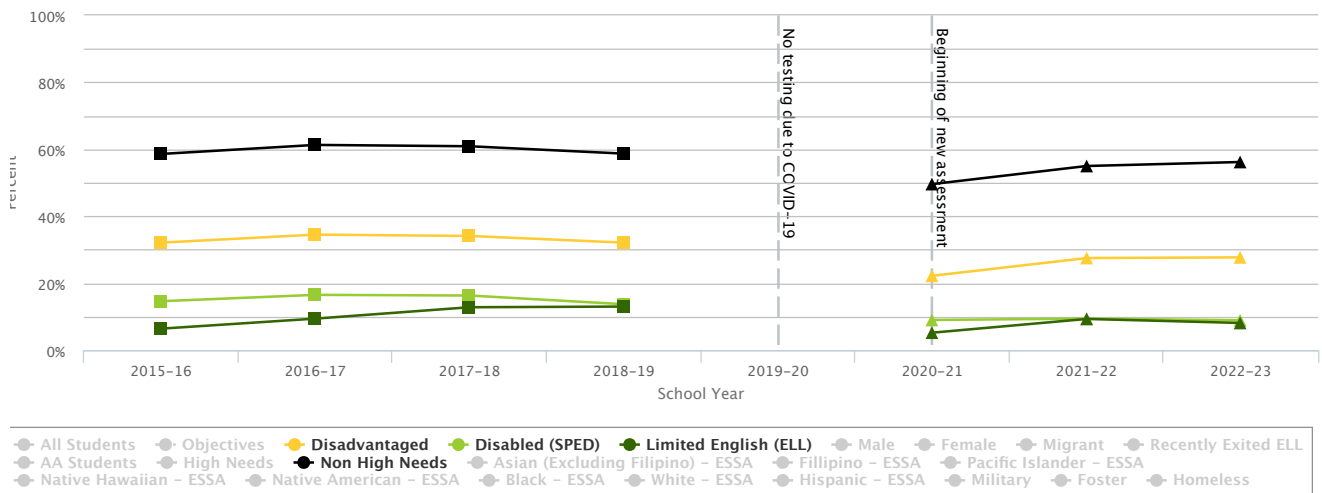
ELA Proficiency 2015-16 to 2022-23



Math Proficiency 2015-16 to 2022-23



Science Proficiency 2015-16 to 2022-23



We advocate allocating sufficient funding to schools so that they can provide appropriate supports for all students.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Our support for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,
 Cheri Nakamura
 HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Castle Complex Community Council
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
*Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW supports HB1600, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

We support for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission’s (“Commission”) request for \$462,134 and 4.0 FTE in FY25. The Commission’s funding is scheduled to lapse on June 30, 2024. Without your support of this request, the Commission will not be able to effectively meet its statutory duty to oversee the State’s correctional system. We humbly ask that this committee support this budget request.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



Hilo Office: 80 Pauahi St., Ste 203
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Ph: (808) 491-2437 / Fax: (808) 498-0315
Kona Office: 75-5708 Alahou St., Apt 2C
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Ph: (808)-464-4003 / Fax: (808) 464-4288
email:goinghomehawaii@gmail.com
www.goinghomehawaii.org

Aloha Chairs Tarnas and Bellati, Vice Chairs, and Committee members:

My name is Les Estrella from Going Home Hawai'i and I am writing to request that you support the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$462,134 for FY25 which includes four full time positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, and office equipment.

Although the Commission has existed since 2019 with five unpaid volunteer Commissioners, the HCSOC did not gain staff until July, 2022. Since then, the Commission has brought transparency and accountability to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L.

Going Home Hawai'i believes that every individual deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. The Oversight Commission is a key component in keeping corrections facilities accountable for their care of those they have custody of.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at (808)491-2437 or at goinghomehawaii@gmail.com.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les Estrella".

Les Estrella

President & CEO, Going Home Hawai'i

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for HB1800, State Budget
Committee on Finance
March 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enhance, protect, conserve, restore and manage Hawai'i's natural resources. We have consistently supported investments in the funding proposed in bills that the house is currently considering for climate change mitigation and response, wildfire prevents, protection against invasive species, pollution detection, and the development of cesspool management plans. and watershed protection.ⁱ

These funds are essential to provide the State with the protection it needs against the consistent increase in natural disasters like the Lahaina wildfires through long-term conservation of watershed forests statewide. These investments help reduce erosion, prevent extinction of endangered species, remove invasive species, increase carbon storage in native forests, and protect Hawai'i's fresh water. Protection is needed to safeguard these invaluable resources in the face of threats such as invasive species and climate change. Continuing investment in these vital resources will have immense long-term impacts for our forests and far beyond.

In addition, we support of investments in programs to support our marine and coastal resources will ensure that the reefs that line our coasts, which are environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural treasures, will continue to support our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Each year, our reefs provide flood protection to people, property, and jobs valued at more than \$836 million, support nearshore fisheries worth \$13.4 million, and contribute more than \$1.2 billion through reef-related tourism to the state's economy. We must continue to make the vital investments to protect and sustainably manage our aquatic resources.

These budget items contribute to the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' environment, economy, and quality of life. TNC understands that difficult fiscal decisions must be made, and we thank you for appreciating the critical importance of protecting our limited and exhaustible natural resources so that they will continue to support us with fresh water, productive fisheries and farmlands, cultural treasures, and a healthy lifestyle. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on HB1800.

ⁱ HB1841 – Wildfire emergency response; HB1581 – Wildfire prevention; HB2104 – Protecting against invasive species; HB1840 – Pollution detection; HB2743 – Cesspool management plans

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter (Chair) Ka'iulani de Silva Dave Eadie
Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Puni Jackson
Brett MacNaughton Janet Montag Alicia Moy Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern M. Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Paul D. Alston Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

HAWAII HARBORS USERS GROUP

Testimony for HB 1800 Relating to the State Budget

Before the House Committee on Finance

March 6, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group is providing **comments** for HB 1800, relating to the State Budget.

Special Funds collected, managed, and expended by HDOT/Harbors ensure that facilities and services are provided to HHUG members who in turn support commerce and our local economy.

Hawaii's economy, and virtually every aspect of life in our islands, is dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo. The vast majority of Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the state support dependable and efficient cargo transportation and handling to service our residents and businesses.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



Committee: Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10:00 am
Place: Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i with Comments on H.B. 1800 Relating to the State Budget**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

ACLU of Hawai'i supports a **Peoples' Budget**. Procedurally, this translates to a democratic, transparent, and participatory budget process. Substantively, a Peoples' budget protects the civil rights and civil liberties enshrined in our federal and Hawai'i Constitutions, and invests in healthy, safe, and equitable communities.

Our Decriminalizing Houselessness, Reimagining Public Safety and Smart Justice campaigns focus on diverting people from the criminal legal system, reducing the number of people in our jails and prisons, eliminating racial disparities, shrinking the prison system and shifting wasteful spending away from incarceration. We advocate for reinvestment in things that keep our communities safe: housing, health care, jobs, education, violence prevention programs and restorative justice.

Hawai'i continues to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on incarceration. **We spend over \$90,000 per year to incarcerate one adult but less than \$10,000 to educate a keiki in our public schools.**

Even with the high dollar amount spent on incarceration, we still have a 50-60% (and increasing) recidivism rate. This aptly demonstrates that our correctional system continues to focus far more on punishment vs. accountability, rehabilitation, and redemption.

Criminal justice reforms have proven successful in other states by significantly reducing the pretrial population by 30-40% and the total number of incarcerated people, without compromising public safety and while saving taxpayer dollars.

In Hawai'i, criminal justice reforms, have proven successful. Over the past 17 years, we have reduced the number of youth detained or incarcerated by more than 80%. Contrary to a popular myth, juvenile crime did not go up!

Diverting and reducing the juvenile population did not just happen by chance. A lawsuit by the ACLU of Hawai'i and an investigation by the Department of Justice spurred the State to address egregious anti-gay and anti-transgender abuse and harassment of youth at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility.¹ In turn, this led to collaborative efforts by State and community stakeholders to divert youth from Hawaii's juvenile justice system, using evidence-based practices, and culturally appropriate trauma-informed care.

This collaborative evidence-based approach can work for our adult system too. We need to focus on the root causes that propel people into the criminal legal system and invest in proven community-based resources in under resourced communities to stop the revolving door to our jails and prisons.

Against this backdrop of success with our juvenile justice system, **we are disappointed that the Legislature's proposed budget appropriates over \$70 million dollars for jail and prison expansion, including \$10 million for the continued planning to replace OCCC.**

The estimated price tag for the new OCCC is close to 1 billion dollars and this does not include long term operational costs. This exorbitant amount will only line the pocketbooks of consultants and make our communities poorer, not safer. This is a lose-lose situation and lives up to the status quo of Hawaii's wastefulness when it comes to tax-payer dollars and resources.

Amidst an affordable housing crisis, high rates of homelessness, shortage of healthcare workers in Hawai'i, children and families still reeling from COVID-19, recovery from the Maui fires, and more Native Hawaiian and local families leaving our beloved Hawai'i because they cannot afford to live here, appropriating \$70 million for jail and prison expansion is unconscionable.

We implore the Hawai'i to reallocate proposed funding for carceral expansion to affordable and recovery housing, healthcare, education, work force development and alternative crisis response teams trained in de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. In doing so, we will pivot away from the status quo of sending armed police officers to respond to mental health crises, which has led to an increase in use of force and providing the services that people in crisis need.

¹<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/hawaii-youth-correctional-facility-pay-over-half-million-dollars-relentless-campaign>

In summary, we ask that you increase investments in the following to meet the needs of our communities:

- Affordable Housing – Housing first program, rapid re-housing program and permanent supportive housing, ‘Ohana zones
- Education – Early, Public Schools, Charter Schools, Higher Education
- Youth Programs
- Workforce Development
- Counselors, Behavioral Health Specialists and Mentors in Schools and Communities
- Drop- In Centers 24/7 on every island
- Crisis Response Systems
- Harm Reduction Programs
- Health Care
- Drug Treatment
- Libraries
- Family Resource Centers
- Diversion services
- Re-entry and Reintegration Programs
- Language Access
- Immigration Support Services

Hawai’i Correctional System Oversight Commission

Of note, we request full funding, including an investigator position for the **Hawai’i Correctional System Oversight Commission**, in the State’s budget. The Oversight Commission is fulfilling its mandate to promote transparency and accountability in our jails and prisons and provides opportunities for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to remedy violations under federal and state laws, and correctional standards – prior to federal intervention from the Department of Justice for unconstitutional conditions of confinement.²

In contrast, we ask that you reduce and eliminate appropriations for the following CIP projects especially the \$10 million appropriation for a RFP to replace the OCCC jail:

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation CIP³ - Total of \$70.5 MILLION

- \$ 10 MIL OCCC Jail Request for Proposals for a New Facility (Public-private partnership)

² <https://acluhawaii.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/acluhidojcomplaintprisonovercrowding.pdf>

³ The ACLU of Hawai’i does not oppose PSD’s item no. 4 lump sum statewide CIP request for urgent and immediate repairs to address cited code violations.

- \$ 45 MIL Halawa Prison Health Care Unit
- \$ 18 MIL Halawa Prison Perimeter Fence
- \$ 3 MIL New West Hawaii Jail and Transitional Center in Kona
- \$ 3.5 MIL MCCC Jail Perimeter Fence
- \$ 20 MIL KCCC (Kauai jail) Planning, Design and Construction
- \$ 16 MIL Women’s Prison – Expansion and Related Improvements

Department of Law Enforcement

In 2023, the Department of Public Safety split into two Departments – the Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The proposed budget for Operational costs for the Department of Law Enforcement substantially increased in 2023-2024 and will further increase in some categories in 2024-2025.⁴ We ask that the State Legislature carefully review this Department’s budget appropriation considering other needs in Hawai’i and the possibility of Furlough Fridays within our public schools.

We urge lawmakers to Reimagine Public Safety and recommit to building safe, healthy, thriving, and equitable communities by aligning our budget, the Peoples’ Budget, with our values.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit comments relating to H.B. 1800.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shiota

Carrie Ann Shiota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai’i

cshiota@acluhawaii.org

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai’i
P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu,
Hawai’i 96801T:
808.522.5900
F: 808.522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai’i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai’i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai’i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai’i has been serving Hawai’i for over 50 years.

⁴ The Department of Public Safety requested the following: Adds 70.00 permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for both fiscal years, \$9,933,594 for FY 24 and \$9,708,355 for FY 25 for the operational costs, salary, lease and other requirements of the new Department of Law Enforcement.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:01:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I live in Honolulu. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We respectfully request that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you can finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Thank you.



March 5, 2024

House Committee on Finance
Chair Representative Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
Members of the Committee
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: The Imperative of Allocating Adequate Funding to Protect Natural Resources
Support HB 1800, Relating to State Budget

Aloha!

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 1800, Relating to State Budget. Taking care of our 'āina and making funding available for preventive measures to protect, restore and nurture our land and ocean is the best insurance policy against wildfires, floods, and other disasters.

We all saw the devastating effects of the wildfires on Maui last August. No one wants another wildfire, flood or any other disaster in our islands. Insurance helps us in the aftermath of a disaster. The Care for 'Āina Now coalition believes it is equally as important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events. This proactive, preventive approach to stewardship of our islands requires an investment in our 'āina.

The Maui wildfires have now amplified to every resident, and indeed the world, that no region in the world is immune to the impact of this climate crisis. We are a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to supporting better management of the state's natural resources. We estimate that an additional \$360 million annually is needed to close the current budget shortfall in protecting our islands against climate threats and the impacts of tourism. At its most basic level, this funding is necessary for wildfire prevention strategies.

Natural resources are the lifeblood of our pae 'āina, providing us with the essentials for survival and the foundation for Hawai'i's economy, our very society. These resources include clean air and water, fertile soil, living coral reefs, stable coastlines and beaches, biodiversity and healthy forests. We commend the legislature, cognizant of the local and global threats to these riches, for declaring Hawai'i to be the first state in the nation to declare a climate emergency. Protecting and restoring these resources is a moral, economic, and ecological imperative.

Based on the foregoing, we support this bill and strongly advocate for dedicating a significant portion of revenue dedicated to funding for DLNR so that Hawai'i can:

- Remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants.
- Restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents.
- Restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire.
- Provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Preventing damage to natural resources is often more cost-effective than trying to restore them once they have been degraded. For example, restoring a polluted stream can be far more expensive than preventing pollution in the first place. Wildfire prevention can be significantly more cost-effective than paying for the cost of responding to wildfires and restoring damaged communities and natural resources. Legislators who allocate funding for protection and restoration are, in essence, making a sound long-term investment in their constituents, well-being, and the environment.

We have a moral responsibility to protect the natural resources that sustain life on our islands. Future generations depend on the decisions we make today. Legislators have a unique role in shaping policies that reflect our ethical obligation to safeguard the environment for all living beings.

In conclusion, there are numerous compelling reasons why legislators should approve funding to protect, restore, and manage Hawai'i's magnificent and irreplaceable natural resources. Disaster resilience, climate change mitigation, clean water and air, sustainable agriculture, economic benefits, public health, long-term cost savings, biodiversity conservation, and ethical responsibility all underscore the importance of such investments. By allocating the necessary funds, legislators can secure a brighter and more sustainable future for all. It is a responsibility that cannot be ignored, and the benefits far outweigh the costs.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our natural resources are at the forefront of policy-leaders' minds and that the state budget reflects these priorities.

Mahalo,

Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

Website: careforainanow.org

Contact: aloha@careforainanow.org



The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
The House
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Microsoft

March 5, 2024

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee:

Microsoft submits these written comments on H.B. 1800. We support the addition of funding into AGS 131 - Enterprise Technology Services, for Microsoft 365 G5 – an upgrade from the State’s current Office 365 licenses that provides additional cybersecurity, data privacy, and communications functionality. At Microsoft our mission is to empower every individual and organization on the planet to achieve more, and we are proud of our work to empower State of Hawai’i employees to achieve more every day.

Microsoft has been active in Hawai’i communities for many years. In 2023, Microsoft and our employees donated more than \$5 million in cash and in-kind services benefiting 674 Hawai’i non-profit organizations.

Today more than 15,000 State employees in Hawai’i use multiple Microsoft products and services in their efforts to serve the public. The State’s most critical systems were developed to rely on Microsoft’s email and productivity services. Microsoft’s newest service, Microsoft Teams, is used by more than 10,000 State employees every month to facilitate seamless communications, collaboration, whether in Honolulu or working in communities across the islands.

Hawai’i’s Information Technology Strategic Plan published by ETS prioritizes enhancements to the State’s cybersecurity posture, optimizing sustainable operations, and developing the workforce. Microsoft is proud to be working with ETS to advance these priorities, and we have proposed several solutions that would modernize the State’s past IT purchases, increase the security of its residents’ data, and help employees find additional capacity by benefitting from the latest artificial intelligence technology. Here are the key reasons we believe Microsoft’s proposed services presents value to Hawai’i:



- **Enhanced communications.** Microsoft is a leader in productivity, collaboration, and communication tools. Today more than 45 states rely on Microsoft 365. Every day, State employees use familiar Microsoft tools including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint to develop documents and collaborative tools like OneDrive for Business, SharePoint Online, and Teams. The current budget adjustment for G5 includes funding to migrate the state's telephone system to Microsoft Teams, bringing one more communications tool into the environment where State employees already work. By using tightly integrated tools, employees have a seamless experience working across their technology products and can focus more time on serving the public.
- **Greater cybersecurity preparedness and protection.** The G5 budget adjustment includes Microsoft's latest cybersecurity tools, which provide enhanced abilities to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber threats. These tools also reduce the risk that sensitive citizen data is unintentionally released. Because these new tools will be built-in to the Microsoft 365 platform, they require less work than purchasing additional multiple third-party security tools and attempting to operate them cohesively.
- **Improved IT customer service.** By upgrading to the most modern Microsoft tools including Microsoft Windows 11 Enterprise and M365, over time ETS will benefit from improved user self-service tools, enhanced auto deployment tools, and fewer legacy issues that will lead to a reduction in user support calls. Additionally, ETS will be able to increase flexibility by delegating key maintenance and operations decisions to departments, allowing the technology to meet department needs while still upholding State-wide cybersecurity and data management standards.
- **Empowering employees with AI.** Today many state governments struggle to recruit and retain all of the workers needed to fulfill their missions. With this adjustment, Microsoft will bring its Microsoft 365 Copilot service to the State of Hawai'i, allowing employees to responsibly and securely benefit from the power of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. This new functionality will help employees find more time in their day by helping to draft emails and memos, analyze data, and pull together insights from across the State's existing data. In a survey of users eight months after they began using Copilot, 70% said the tool helped them be



more productive, and 68% said it improved the quality of their work. Overall, users were 29% faster in a series of tasks (searching, writing, and summarizing)¹. The proposed adjustment includes funding for 1,000 employees to begin using this technology, which we will support through trainings and implementation support.

We hope this information is useful to you and the House as it considers its budget and investments in ETS and we welcome the opportunity to address your questions. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the State of Hawai'i and we look forward to our continued work with ETS to empower the State of Hawai'i to achieve more.

Regards,

Colleen Kerr
Government Affairs Senior Director, State of Hawai'i
Microsoft Corporation

¹ [What Can Copilot's Earliest Users Teach Us About Generative AI at Work? \(microsoft.com\)](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/copilot/early-users)



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
10:00 am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB1800 Relating to the State Budget

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

We recognize that the State is facing budget issues and want to be sensitive to the community needs, especially the ongoing needs on Maui. We are submitting comments related to QUEST reimbursement rates for autism services. If the current budget issues allow room to provide funding for this population (with state dollars having a federal match), it will help to address current provider shortages, increase stable healthcare careers, and allow for decreased costs to the state over the lifetime for supporting individuals with autism.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a medically necessary service provided for QUEST beneficiaries under the age of 21 with an autism diagnosis for intensive behavioral therapy (IBT), as mandated by section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). Autism is classified as a mental health condition, included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) and ABA treatment is the leading behavioral health treatment to ameliorate symptoms associated with this diagnosis and focuses on improving independence and decreasing the level of supports and services needed over the lifetime.

The state took great strides in the last legislative session to bring Medicaid payments to 100% of Medicare. Unfortunately for ABA providers, this did not include our services because the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes for ABA services are carrier priced, meaning the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Medicare Physician Fee Schedule \(MPFS\)](#) do not currently set rates for our services. This has resulted in a lack of parity for these intensive behavioral health services in our state.

We thank the legislature for passing the concurrent resolution in 2023 which required the rate study for QUEST ABA rates. As noted in the final report ([DC233](#)), providers across the state have reported that recruiting and retaining a workforce has becoming increasingly difficult. Reimbursement rates for QUEST services were set in 2015 and have not increased, creating a hardship for behavioral health providers. This has resulted in significant delays for beneficiaries to access services, as well as not being able to meet the full service needs for children and families in our state. Additionally, some providers

have reported not accepting QUEST or not taking on any new QUEST patients due to the below market reimbursement rates.

QUEST beneficiaries are too often faced with a lack of access to services across the state, especially on neighbor islands. Providers willing to accept QUEST report having to maintain waitlists, with families sometimes waiting for years to access their medically necessary behavioral health treatment. Research demonstrates that early intensive intervention and provision of services in line with the [professional standards of care](#) for treatment dosage produce the best gains for individuals and can decrease the costs of care over the lifetime. **Investing in access to services when children are young decreases costs needed to support individuals across the lifespan.**

Due to low reimbursement rates and the high cost of living here in the islands, there is a shortage of providers, creating provider network adequacy issues. An increase in reimbursement rates would allow providers to pay livable wages and create additional stable jobs to serve QUEST beneficiaries.

We thank you for the consideration of this vulnerable population and the pressing need for increased rates for applied behavior analysis services for the Medicaid population.

Mahalo,



Kristen Koba-Burd, BCBA, LBA, CDP
Legislative Chair
Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis
Legislation@hawaiiaba.org



TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Maria Goellner, Director of State Policy, FAMM

SUBJECT: House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday March 6 at 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maria Goellner and I represent FAMM, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit sentencing and prison reform organization in Washington, DC. Because our national membership includes tens of thousands of incarcerated people and their families, one of our priorities is to increase accountability and transparency in corrections by supporting independent prison oversight nationwide. We are encouraged that Hawai'i has established the Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission), and with the work of the Commission thus far. Hawai'i is an example to the country in this regard.

FAMM urges you to support the request to include the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission in the base budget for appropriation. The Commission's work is impossible without the correct levels of funding and staff to perform the important tasks of inspecting prisons, investigating complaints, liaising with Corrections Division officials to solve and prevent problems, and reporting and distributing the ombudsperson's findings and recommendations to the public and stakeholders.

The Commission must fund staff, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, consultation for special projects, and office equipment. Given that this office is so new, it is important to ensure it is properly funded to fulfill its mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L. In our experience looking at other similarly sized prison oversight bodies in states like Ohio and New Jersey, their budget requests have been reasonable.

Prisons are some of the darkest, least transparent places, and they are responsible for the daily care and safety of thousands of incarcerated people and corrections staff. Prisons operate 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Legislative committees, audits, and accreditations can examine prisons only sporadically. Properly funded, the Commission can encourage and foster transparency, accountability, and improvement in Hawai'i prisons every day.

Prison oversight is worthy of funding because it benefits everyone. Lawmakers must fund and monitor the Corrections Division but cannot be inside prison facilities on a daily basis. The



Commission can do continuous, frequent reconnaissance for state lawmakers, verifying or debunking rumors, successes, failures, needed improvements, or use of funds and resources.

Oversight is beneficial for both incarcerated people and corrections staff because unsafe, unhealthy, and unaccountable prisons harm both groups. A trusted, effective oversight body provides a safe place for incarcerated people, their families, and corrections staff to take complaints and concerns when, for whatever reason, they fall on deaf ears, the grievance process breaks down, or there is no other safe place to lodge them.

Oversight benefits Corrections Division administrators by highlighting problems they might otherwise miss and helping to fix problems before they turn into crises or produce expensive law suits for the state. Everyone performs and behaves a little bit better when they know someone is watching them. Oversight encourages professionalism in corrections.

Oversight benefits taxpayers by shedding light on what prisons are really like, how they spend our taxes, and how they treat and rehabilitate our loved ones and neighbors. Taxpayers collectively share the fiscal and moral responsibility for incarceration and restoring those who break the law. Oversight shows taxpayers how our money and our chosen prison policies are helping restore and rehabilitate people inside – or not.

The Commission's request to be included in the base budget is reasonable and should be granted. Oversight does not happen without proper funding, and it is worth funding because it benefits every Hawaiian.

Should you have additional questions, I can be reached at mgoellner@famm.org. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.



HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 1:36:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Lusk	Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center whose offices are in Honolulu, Hawai'i would like to comment on the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition's state budget that supports increasing investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

The Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition respectfully requests that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people

living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQIA+ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,

Heather Lusk, LCSW, MSW

Executive Director

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

COMMENTS ON HB 1800: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/6/24; 10:00 am; via Videoconference or Room 308.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments on HB 1800, the state budget bill, including appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025, and funding for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

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

We understand that the State is struggling to deal with the disaster on Maui. **We urge you to take a comprehensive overview of all the critical needs of the residents of our state.** Families are struggling with the stress of high rents and food costs. Not only might this end in people moving out of state, it can result in domestic violence and even homelessness. The loss of our workforce also adds to cultural loss. Mental health issues are growing for our youth. The population of homeless elders has almost tripled. Needs are growing in many areas.

The State has depended on community-based agencies to provide essential services to hundreds of thousands of our residents. Now many of these agencies are struggling. **40% of the members of the True Cost Coalition may close their doors if funding is not only maintained but increased. Their missions are to serve but they cannot hire staff or continue to provide services when the State has not increased their funding for over 10 years.** For example, for many of our State contracts, Catholic Charities Hawaii is actually paying 26% of the true cost to provide services. What for-profit vendor of the State would be willing to eat 25% of the cost, to provide a service to the State? What will Hawai'i be like in 5 or 10 years if this continues?

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition, comprised of 50 community-based nonprofit organizations, serving over 500,000 of people across the state. We have come together to ensure that government funding adequately and sustainably covers the true costs of providing governmental services by Hawai'i nonprofit organizations. We urge your Committee to support the Department of Health's and Department of Human Services' budget requests which includes additional funding for rate increases for purchase of service contracts for service providers.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i respectfully urges you to include adequate funding for the true cost to operate these health and human services. If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Gary Okimoto, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 6, 2024
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Room 308

RE: HB1800 Relating to the State Budget

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA asks that our State budget be revised to include investments in two vital programs that will bring millions in Federal funds into our state's food system to help food insecure Hawaii residents.

Specifically, we are asking that the budget include funding for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program, locally known as DA BUX, and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and funding for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

An investment of roughly 2 million in each of these programs would bring in up to \$22million in Federal funds that will go into Hawaii's food system to help fight childhood hunger, incentivize SNAP users to purchase of healthy local fruits and vegetables, and support our local farmers.

These programs provide a tremendous return on investment. This is a way to combat food insecurity, promote local food production, and make our state more resilient and economically diverse. We strongly encourage these vital allocations of funds to be included in our State Budget and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 1800 – Relating to the State Budget

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Wednesday, March 6, 2024; 10:00AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify on **House Bill 1800 – Relating to the State Budget**.

As an advocacy organization committed to ensuring the health and well-being of Hawai'i's keiki, we believe that investing in preventive measures is a moral imperative and a sound fiscal decision. We strongly encourage you to preserve the budget for preventive programs and services for Hawai'i's keiki, such as:

- Department of Education (weighted student formula)
- Early Intervention Services
- Executive Office on Early Learning
- Investments in public preschool
- Preschool Open Doors

Preventive programs and services are critical in ensuring our most vulnerable populations' health, safety, and development. By providing access to early childhood education, healthcare, and social support systems, these programs serve as a lifeline for countless families facing adversity, particularly our [ALICE families](#). They alleviate immediate hardships and contribute to long-term societal benefits by reducing the need for costly interventions later on.

Cutting funding to these vital services will devastate individuals and families who rely on them. It will exacerbate existing inequalities, widen the opportunity gap, and perpetuate cycles of poverty and instability. Moreover, it will undermine Hawai'i's collective well-being, as any community's health and prosperity are intrinsically linked to the welfare of its most vulnerable members.

Further, we urge you to reconsider any proposal prioritizing passing tax breaks for the wealthy over preserving essential social services. Tax breaks to a select few will come at the expense of critical investments for the majority of the population in Hawai'i. Sacrificing the welfare of our keiki and working families to bolster the wealth of the already affluent and preserve their intergenerational wealth is counterproductive to the health and well-being of Hawai'i's communities and economy.

Instead of pursuing austerity measures that disproportionately burden those least able to bear them, we implore you to prioritize the needs and well-being of Hawai'i's communities by maintaining and expanding funding for preventive programs and services. By doing so, we can create a more equitable and sustainable Hawai'i for all.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge you to prioritize Hawai'i's future – our keiki.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chevelle Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chevelle Davis, MPH
Director of Early Childhood and Health Policy

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 11:24:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Women's Prison Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: HB1800 Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Representative Yamashita and Representative Kitagawa,

The Women’s Prison Project strongly supports the inclusion of the full proposed budget for the Hawaii Corrections Oversight Commission (HCOC) in the State of Hawaii’s budget for FY 2024-2025. The Commission is requesting \$462,134 for FY2025 which includes:

four (4) full-time positions:

1. Oversight Coordinator
2. Special Assistant to Oversight Coordinator
3. Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist
4. Jail Oversight Specialist (new position)

This includes Inter-Island Travel (neighbor-island facility visits); Out-Of-State-Travel (Saguaro facility visits); Memberships & Conferences; and General Office Supplies + Equipment.

The Commission is mandated to facilitate a corrections system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model. This is a core function and priority area for the Commission. HCOC’s strategic plan identifies three components to accomplish system-wide change:

1. Understanding the current status of the system—where we are now.
2. Having a vision for the future of the system—where we want to go.
3. Implementing incremental steps that move toward the vision and away from the current status—one step at a time.”

Fulfilling its mandate requires full staffing. We are fortunate that the HCOC has been able to employ experienced staff who are nationally acknowledged experts in corrections oversight and systems improvement. HCOC should be seen as a necessary ally to the Legislature and the

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Failing to fully fund the HCOC would limit its effectiveness and help to maintain a status quo that the Legislature has already found to be unacceptable.

The commission plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and rights of those who are incarcerated and is a major asset in the States' efforts to transform its corrections system to a system that is truly rehabilitative.

Corrections facilities operate as closed systems, with daily operations known only to those who live or work in the facilities. In the past few years, through the work of the HCOC, and their ability to inspect Hawaii's prisons and jails, we have learned, among other things, of dangerous overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, lack of adequate programming and insufficient transition planning in Hawaii's prisons.

As an independent commission with legislatively mandated oversight functions, the HCOC is able to identify conditions, processes, and practices within the corrections system that are in need of improvement and recommend corrective action. The HCOC has also identified strengths that already exist that can be enhanced or expanded to move the system forward.

Our state has boldly created a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and has declared an intent to transform its corrections system to one that is truly rehabilitative. The HCOC was created to provide objective information and expertise to support that transition.

The Women's Prison Project urges the Legislature to include \$462,134 in the FY2024-2025 State of Hawaii budget to fully fund the HCOC.

Tadia Rice, Member

Women's Prison Project



Native Hawaiian LEGAL CORPORATION

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1205 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone (808) 521-2302 • www.nativehawaiianlegalcorp.org



Testimony to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
March 6, 2024

Relating to HB1800: Funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission (Sequence No. 102-001, ATG100/EC)

March 6, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Aloha e Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (“NHLC”) testifies in support of the budget request of \$462,134 for FY25 from the Hawai’i Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Oversight Commission).

Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in the state’s prison population. Moreover, Native Hawaiians are shipped to mainland private prisons more often than any other group, a fact which has been decried by studies published by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawai’i Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. This disparity is chilling when one considers that the state of Hawai’i imprisons its citizens at a rate higher than every democratic country, other than the United States, according to the Prison Policy Institute. NHLC has represented Native Hawaiians to address violations of basic constitutional and statutory requirements in the prison system.

The Legislature created a task force to address prison reform with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 85 (2016). The HCR 85 Task Force was unequivocal in its assessment of the need for reform. The state’s prison system, it concluded, is failing under any measure. The HCR 85 Task Force identified specific recommendations to repair the system, including actions needed to address the over-representation of Native Hawaiians.

The Oversight Commission was the overarching vehicle by which the HCR 85 Task Force meant to implement these recommendations. The Oversight Commission needs to be funded for any meaningful remediation to occur.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

March 4 , 2024

TO: Chair Yamashita
Vice-Chair Kitagawa
House Committee on Finance
Members House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kate Stanley, Chair
Retired

Sean Tajima, Vice-Chair
Complex Area Superintendent, Campbell/Kapolei

Committee on Weights XIII

SUBJECT: HB 1800 Relating to the State Budget

Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance, we request that you add to the State Budget, in EDN 100, \$6,000,000 to implement the Committee on Weights XIII recommendations.

The Department of Education (DOE) requested these funds, but they were not included in the Governor's budget.

During the summer of 2023, the DOE convened the Committee on Weights XIII, known as COW XIII, to review the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) for the school year 2024-2025 and beyond as authorized by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), 302A-1303.6.

The WSF and the Committee on Weights were created by Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004. The WSF is an allocation of funds method based on the characteristics of students at any given school. The COW's responsibility is to review the weights of each characteristic and make recommendations for any change or other actions to strengthen the WSF. Other actions may include adding other characteristics or requesting additional funds be added to the WSF for specific purposes.

In response to HCR116 SD1, adopted by the Legislature in 2023, Urging the Committee on Weights to Recommend and the Board of Education to Adopt a Weighted Student Formula that Gives Equal Consideration to Small and Remote Schools, the COW XIII made the following recommendations specifically related to the WSF:

- Adding 3.5 million to the WSF program to support small/and or remote schools.
 - These funds will be used to continue to provide \$250,000 to each of the eight remote schools (Kau High and Pahala Elementary, Hana High and Elementary School, Kaunakakai Elementary School, Lanai High and Elementary School, Molokai High School, Molokai Middle School, Kilohana Elementary School, Maunaloa Elementary)
 - In addition, these funds will provide \$250,000 to six additional identified small schools (Kaaawa Elementary School, Waiahole Elementary School, Keolu Elementary School, Ha'aheo Elementary School, Honaunau Elementary School, Hoboken Elementary School)

- 2.5 million for the WSF program to support schools needing assistance from the WSF Reserve Fund.
 - The Reserve funds are awarded through an application process to specific types of schools, including combination schools, remote schools, low enrollment schools, and cases of extraordinary circumstances.

We urge the committee to follow the COW XIII recommendations to add \$6,000,000 to the WSF fund and to include this amount in HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget. These funds will support small and/or remote schools and schools facing extraordinary circumstances. These schools need this additional support so that they may serve the children in their communities. If these schools only receive funds through the WSF allocation method, many of these remote and small schools could not afford certain positions such as counselors, programs, curriculum, services, equipment, and professional development.

The COW XIII report may be found at: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/COWIIIreport.pdf>

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 11:28:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
claudine smorse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/4/24

Claudine E. Smorse

1132 Bishop St. #809

Honolulu Hawaii 96813

808-421-9180

kanake98@me.com

RE: Testimony in Support for Continuing the Hawaiian Corrections Oversight Commission - HB1800

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1800, which pertains to the continuation of funding for the Hawaiian Corrections Oversight Commission. This commission represents a critical step forward in ensuring the integrity, transparency, and reform of our public safety and corrections institutions in Hawaii. It serves as a preferable alternative to potential federal oversight, offering localized, informed, and compassionate scrutiny that aligns with our state's unique cultural and societal needs.

The commission, since its inception, has been instrumental in highlighting the deficiencies within our carceral system—a system that, as it stands, has failed to adequately serve the community it is intended to protect and rehabilitate. Through the appointment of a highly experienced and compassionate individual to lead these efforts, the commission has demonstrated its commitment to effecting meaningful and necessary change.

It is important to recognize that criticism and scrutiny, although uncomfortable, are essential components of growth and improvement. The focus on the compensation of the commission's coordinator, as discussed in public forums and by legislative leaders, should not detract from the broader and more critical issues at hand. The work of the commission, and the transparency it strives to bring to the operations of our corrections system, is vital for the identification and rectification of current problems.

The comments made by Chairman Mark Patterson, reflecting on his extensive career in public safety, underscore the frustration felt by many at the misdirection of focus towards individual remuneration rather than the systemic failures the commission seeks to address. It is a misinterpretation to view the support for the commission's leadership as mere personal allegiance; rather, it is a recognition of the need for experienced and dedicated oversight in a system that has long been neglected.

The Hawaiian Corrections Oversight Commission stands as a beacon of hope for real and lasting reform within our corrections system. It embodies the values of accountability, transparency, and compassion that are necessary for the healing and improvement of our community. I urge you to support HB1800 and ensure the continuation of the commission's invaluable work.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB1800 and the ongoing efforts to reform Hawaii's corrections system for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Claudine Smorse

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 2:37:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Trapedo Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Professor who has just published *Reckoning with Restorative Justice Hawai'i Women's Prison Writing* with Duke University Press.

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/reckoning-with-restorative-justice>

I have been following the work of HCSOC, which is exemplary and needs to be funded.

The HCOSC and its staff of Christin Johnson and Cara Compani have done exemplary work in their role of "Oversight" and are key in turning the correctional system into one of "Restoration." Hawai'i should be leading in healing pa`ahao with the model of *Pu`uhonua* and the use of *Ho`oponopono*. Without adequate funding the HCSOC cannot travel to neighbor islands for on-site inspection or public hearings. The budget of \$462,134 is relatively small compared to the total budget for policing and public safety.

Best,

Leanne Trapedo Sims, Ph.D.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 2:53:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lillian Harwood-Ah Sing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou;

It is important to continue financial support for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Committee. We who have loved ones incarcerated have been kept in the dark far too long regarding the conditions and care of inmates. It is our right as voting taxpayers to have the transparency that HCSOC provides. I am ONE VOTE IN FAVOR OF SUPPORTING the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Committee financially.

Thank
You,
Harwood-Ah Sing

Lillian

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 3:14:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tami Haili	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Tami Haili and I am a principal at Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate School.

I am writing to you today to request the inclusion of additional funding into the Hawaii State Department of Education’s (Department) budget for the Weighted Student Formula and for summer enrichment that was included in the Department’s Board-approved budget.

As a principal, I use funding from the weighted student formula for curriculum, teachers, specialized teachers, school supplies, and so much more necessary items. Additional funding for the weighted student formula could be used for teacher resources, supplies, additional positions, computers and so much more needed supplies.

Additionally, the federal funding that made summer enrichment free for all students has been invaluable to my school. With the sunset of this federal funding, the loss of this summer enrichment programming would affect my school because the program plays a vital role in preventing learning loss during the summer months and providing students with opportunities for academic enrichment, social engagement, and personal growth.

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

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 5:07:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natausha Napoleon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/4/24

SUPPORT for HB1800

Aloha and mahalo to our Legislature. I, Natausha Napoleon am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800. I strongly implore the legislation to include The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission in the upcoming budget.

The people of Hawai'i have been subject to unjust sentencing and deplorable facility conditions (as staff and inmates) for decades.

The Correctional Oversight Commission has, and continues to bring vital awareness and beneficial information regarding the conditions for staff and inmates of Hawai'i correctional facilities as well as Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ. In addition, The Oversight Commission is collecting and analyzing data regarding the Hawai'i Paroling Authority and the role they have played in sentencing.

The work that The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission does is invaluable to the people of Hawai'i. Please continue to support their work by including them in the upcoming budget.

Mahalo for your time,

Natausha Napoleon

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 5:32:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chiar Yamashita and Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance

I am writing to urge you to **fund the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission's budget**, including the salary for the Executive Director. The continuation of this organization is essential. The Correctional System has, for too, long, operated in the dark. This Commission was established to provide an outside look at what is happening in our jails and prisons and provide reports to the public and the legislature. We have had to pay many suits for malfeasance in the system in the past, and the previous administration was not fully truthful in responses to legislative questions and concerns.

Now that the Department of Public Safety is transitioning to become a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, information from how systems elsewhere operate is very important. The HCSOC and it's Director are already being a source of this information. It is very important that it continue. This is not a luxury, but an important part of a democracy.

Thank you ,

Barbara Polk

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 6:09:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I urge your annual full funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission. The Commission Coordinator, Christin Johnson, has the experience in corrections oversight and reform to understand and calculate the budget needs of her office. Please make her key contributions to safety, transparency and accountability the daily reality for those men and women who, pre-trial and after sentencing, must live in the custody of Hawaii's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The lines of communication Ms. Johnson has established with the Department and with the community, including the families of those confined, are creating a new atmosphere of collaboration and hope. The Commission website provides a window onto DCR practices which work and those which beg for change. Supporting the work of the Coordinator, you will help the State realize fact-based solutions for the untenable status quo in the size of the population in jails and prisons, the outsourcing of custody to Saguaro, AZ, the working conditions of guards, and the death rate among those in custody.

Mahalo for understanding the incredible value the State receives from the work of HCSOC's salaried and independent Coordinator and her staff.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 7:49:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Chinn	Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Liam Chinn and I live in Ewa Beach. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 7:58:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Torikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of this bill, as it adds the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission into the ATG budget FY 2024-2025 at their full funding of \$462,134.

I retired from the State of Hawai'i at 42 years of service. I was with the Dept. of Public Safety for a total of approximately 38 years as a clerk and then social worker, retiring in Dec 2022.

Over the decades, I had observed the Dept eventually fall into a general state of entropy regarding care and support of the inmates and the staff. Now, I have observed the Commission and their staff implementing positive change towards achieving the therapeutic, rehabilitative model set forth in Act 179.

Sometimes, components of facility operations have been done one way for so long, it becomes part of the routine and then after a while no one thinks about it. But it's actually a detrimental thing that's occurring. Here is just one example - during a Hawai'i Community Correctional Center site visit, the Commission discovered that female inmates were not being given sanitary pads for their menstrual periods. The Commission staff navigated through various roadblocks to help resolve this essential issue. If the Commission had not brought this issue up - based on the Dept's general historical pattern, it would likely have continued until perhaps it hit the media, or possibly legal action. Sometimes it takes "fresh eyes" and an objective third party to notice things. This is just part of what the volunteer Commissioners and its paid staff does for Hawai'i's inmates and the Dept.

The Commission and their staff has brought a wealth of national and international knowledge and resources to the table for Director Johnson to choose to utilize. Whereas national correctional resource organizations such as NIC could provide assistance, with the Commission & its staff we now have a Hawai'i-based resource whose sole focus is to improve Hawai'i's correctional system. Historically, change in the Dept (& millions of dollars over the years) has been brought on by litigation, class action lawsuits, and consent decrees. Let's use this once in a lifetime opportunity of having the Commission and their staff to help make things right for DCR once and for all.

New facilities, renovations, and hiring/retaining staff will certainly help. This will take many months and even years. The Commission staff can assist the Dept in making purposeful, systematic, effective changes now and in the following months. What can be worked on now for

long term positive change is the heart of the Dept - how the inmates and staff are assisted, treated and supported, towards an effective correctional system.

Please vote to fully fund the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission for FY 2024-2025. Allow them to continue and expand on the work they have already started - for the inmates, their families, the community to which they will be returning, and DCR staff.

Sincerely, Lois Torikawa

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 8:50:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Obra	Waiahole Elementary School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Alexandra Obra and I am a principal at Waiāhole Elementary School.

I am writing to you today to request the inclusion of additional funding into the Hawaii State Department of Education’s (Department) budget for the Weighted Student Formula and for summer enrichment that was included in the Department’s Board-approved budget.

As a principal, I use funding from the weighted student formula primarily for personnel positions. Additional funding for the weighted student formula could be used for additional positions which are sorely needed for small schools as well as to provide additional opportunities (i.e., art, PE, librarian, computer science, etc.) for my keiki to participate in enrichment as well as extracurricular activities.

Additionally, the federal funding that made summer enrichment free for all students has been invaluable to my school. With the sunset of this federal funding, the loss of this summer enrichment programming would affect my school and I will not be able to have a summer kindergarten position which is sorely needed for our community.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Obra

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 8:56:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jess Heaney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1800 which encompasses an appropriation to the ATG’s budget to include the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission in the base budget.

I want to urge you to restore the budget for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in HB1800 (SB2234) to its original request of \$462,134.

Without funding, the visits to the neighbor islands, all facilities, and holding of hearings where the public can participate in person will be eliminated. Travel funds and staff are essential for accurately understanding and reporting on the horrors and urgent needs in Hawaii prisons and jails. With out the Oversight Commission's work, we are doomed to be repeating the destructive history and present of Hawaii's prisons and jails, which led to the formation of the Oversight Commission In the first place.

The budget request is a practical and effective investment in the wellbeing and life of all Hawaii communities impacted by the harmful track record of Hawaii’s bloated carceral system.

Please restore the full budget request for this commission. We need them to help redirect the future of Hawaii's prisons and jails. They are best suited to oversee the Dept of Corrections and Rehabilitation. They have done EXCELLENT WORK this year with funding--- and literally saved lives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:36:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: HB 1800 – In **Strong Support** for funding the Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission

HEARING: Wednesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Room 308

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani. I’m an RN who has lived in Hawaii for 30 years. I am a long-time supporter of criminal justice reform. I write in strong support of HB1800.

As you know, The Hawai`i Correctional System Oversight Commission--mandated by Act 179 in 2019 has accomplished much since they started in 2020. And, their **budget request submitted to the Governor was NOT included in his 2023 to 2025 budget package.**

In order to continue their essential work of bringing reform and oversight to our badly broken correctional system, they need funding—now, and in the future.

Please support HB1800 and grant HCSOC’s request for funding. Financial support is needed for many things including:

- Hiring needed staff: An Oversight Coordinator; Jail Oversight Specialist; Prison Oversight Specialist; Reentry Specialist; 2 Research & Policy Associates and an Office Assistant.
- Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel
- Memberships and Conferences
- Special Projects and Consultation
- Bed Utilization Project and a Population Limit Study
- Equipment

Please support HCSOC's budget request by passing HB1800 and giving them a permanent line in future budgets. And, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Cannabis Nurse Educator/Cannabis Activist

Kailua

(808) 321-4503

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 2:33:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristen and I live in Honolulu. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,
Kristen

TO: Senators Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov, senmoriwaki@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senaquino@capitol.hawaii.gov, senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senhashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senkanuha@capitol.hawaii.gov, senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov, senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov,
senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov, senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov, senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov,

Dear Senators Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Henry J.C. Aquino, Troy N. Hashimoto, Lorraine R. Inouye, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Michelle N. Kidani, Donna Mercado Kim, Chris Lee, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Glenn Wakai, and Kurt Fevella

Aloha mai kākou. My name is Euel Ray Kaleihau Kamauu and I am a member of Ohana Ho`opakele based in Hilo, Hawai'i Island.

I urge you to restore the budget for The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in HB1800 (SB2234) to its original request of \$462,134.

From the experience of Ohana Ho`opakele, this commission is helpful in changing the prison system from one based upon punishment to one based on rehabilitation and restoration. Without funding for their staff the commission is limited in what it can do. Our members were able to meet with the commission and staff when they held a hearing here in Hilo. Without funding, the visits to the neighbor islands and holding of hearings where the public can participate in person will be eliminated. Not everyone has the means and know-how to get on Zoom meetings.

Please restore the full budget request for this important commission!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Euel Ray Kaleihau Kamauu

ekamauu@hawaii.edu

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 7:43:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Tilley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members,

Please I strongly support and hope you will pass billHB1800 . This committee has made huge strides in making are incarcerated people safer. They are doing the work that should have been done years ago and they still have so much more work to do. We need someone to bring to light the problems that are currently happening in our correctins system. We are so behind on safe and compasionate care our inmates and individuals tht dealing with our corrections system

Sincerely ,

Cathy Tilley

ROBERT K. MERCE
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
(808) 398-9594

March 5, 2024

TO: Committee on Finance
RE: HB 1800
HEARING: Wednesday, March 6
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
ROOM: Conf. Room 308 and via video conference
POSITION: Strongly support appropriation for Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 1800's appropriation for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

I served as Vice-Chair of the HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform which, among other things, recommended that the State of Hawaii create an "independent commission" to oversee the Department of Public Safety.¹ Independent oversight is a correctional best practice and is an essential element of a safe and effective correctional system. As the Task Force pointed out:

Prisons and jails are closed institutions, both literally and symbolically, and they operate far away from public view. In such closed environments, abuse is more likely to occur and less likely to be discovered. Staff members and inmates with malicious intent often find they can act with impunity, while those with more benign objectives may find their plans thwarted by a lack of resources or an institutional culture that is unsupportive of their efforts or content with the status quo. Insular environments tend to put prisoners at risk of abuse, neglect,

¹ "Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities, Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawaii Legislature, 2019 Reg. Sess. p. 37.

and poor conditions, and the lack of outside scrutiny provides no challenge to this treatment.²

Hawaii's Oversight Commission has broad responsibilities. It oversees a statewide correctional system with an annual budget of \$274 million and responsibility for the health and welfare of more than 4,000 incarcerated men and women, and in addition to its general oversight responsibilities, it is statutorily required to:

- (1) Investigate complaints from prisoners, staff, and the public;
- (2) Facilitate the correctional system's transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model;
- (3) Establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility;
- (4) Formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility;
- (5) Work with the Department to monitor and review the comprehensive offender reentry program, including facility educational and treatment programs, rehabilitative services, work furloughs, and the Hawaii paroling authority's oversight of parolees; and
- (6) Ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system under HRS §353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.

Despite a lack of funding for its first two years, and limited funding thereafter, the Commission has done a remarkable job. It played a critical role in protecting inmates during the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing capacity limits for all of the State's correctional centers. It has published detailed reports on conditions in virtually all of our jails and prisons, and has made more than 50 important recommendations on ways to improve our correctional system.

It has called attention to dangerous and unconstitutional conditions and has made important and insightful recommendations on the development of a new jail to replace OCCC. It has

² "Creating Better Outcomes," supra, quoting Michael Mushlin and Michele Deitch, "Opening Up a Closed World: What Constitutes Effective Prison Oversight?" 30 Pace L. Rev. 1383 (2010): 1384. <https://digitalcommons.pace.edu/plr/vol30/iss5/>.

participated in the planning of a public symposium to help educate the public on issues facing our correctional and criminal justice systems, and it is currently providing support for the Legislature's HCR 23 Task Force on parole policies and practices.

Other significant accomplishments can be found in the Commission's Annual Reports which are online at <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/annual-reports/>

Although the work of the Commission has greatly improved Hawaii's correctional system, much more remains to be done, and for that reason I strongly support the funding provided in HB 1800.

Thank you for allowing me to testify this morning.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:25:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:00 AM

ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

My name is Kala Fisher, I am a sociology student at UHM. I support the Oversight Oversight Commission. In less than 2 years, the Oversight Coordinator has conducted 35 facility visits, 23 public reports including monthly reports, facility-specific reports, 2 strategic plans, 1 year in review, and 16 public meetings. HCSOC submitted more than 50 reports to the Department of Public Safety, now the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Please support creating a line for HCSOC in the budgets from now on. This work is too important to leave to chance every year - TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE DYING. (ppgs 7-10, 2023 HCSOC Annual Report). Please support the amazing work of the Correctional Oversight Commission, a model for transparency and accountability – a real democracy - that all agencies should follow to promote and build trust in government. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:59:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Chagnon	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nick Chagnon and I live in Honolulu. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison

- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,

Nicholas J. Chagnon, Ph.D

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 9:31:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacquelyn Esser	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB1800, Support for Budget Reallocation Towards Community Safety Initiatives

Aloha,

My name is Jacquelyn Esser and I live in Kailua. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety Coalition, I support a state budget that prioritizes investments in services and programs that foster safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

It is imperative that we redirect funds towards initiatives that address the underlying factors contributing to poverty, crime, and violence. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to significantly increase investments in the following areas, which have been proven by research and data to effectively enhance community safety:

1. Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs;
2. Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing;
3. Youth programs;
4. Education;
5. Community-based emergency first responders;
6. Community violence intervention (CVI) programs.

In light of our fiscal challenges and the commitment to reducing our jail and prison populations, I urge you to reconsider appropriations for the following projects:

1. \$10 million for planning and design of OCCC jail;
2. \$18 million perimeter fence for Halawa prison;
3. \$3 million for a new jail in West Hawaii;
4. \$3.5 million for a perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail;
5. \$20 million for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai) jail.

By reallocating resources away from punitive measures and towards community-based solutions, we have the opportunity to create lasting positive change. As elected representatives, I urge you to prioritize the well-being and safety of our communities by supporting initiatives that address the root causes of crime and violence.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing your support for a budget that reflects our shared values of equity, compassion, and justice.

Mahalo,

Jacquelyn Esser

esserjt@gmail.com

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:01:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support continued funding for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) and making it a permanent line item in the State's budget. An attempt to reduce funding for the Coordinator's position was made in the Senate last month and is another example in a series of efforts to undermine and completely eliminate the Oversight Commission.

The conclusion of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM) was that endangering the retention of the Coordinator and defunding the Oversight Commission would once again bring intense scrutiny from the federal government and possibly lawsuits from civil rights organizations.

Defunding the Oversight Commission would also halt the efforts of the Commission to identify and help address the many violations of federal corrections law that create illegal and inhumane conditions in our correctional facilities. These conditions are counterproductive and in no way bring us closer to the goal of reducing recidivism.

The Oversight Commission brings desperately needed transparency and accountability to the operation of our correctional system. The Oversight Coordinator arrived less than two years ago, but has done an immense amount of work, including conducting 35 facility visits and 16 public meetings, and writing 23 public reports including monthly reports, facility specific reports, 2 strategic plans, and 1 year in review report.

Perhaps some legislators and corrections officials may be uncomfortable with this new close examination of our correctional facilities. But defunding the Oversight Commission would have serious consequences for the State. Not only would there be no one to point out and help inform corrections officials on federal violations, but also there would be no one to help save the State money from having to settle lawsuits seeking compensation for medical neglect, suicides, safety violations, lack of sanitary and humane conditions, etc. And perhaps more importantly, progress toward fulfilling the mandate of the Commission to transition the correctional system to a more rehabilitative model would be delayed and recidivism would continue unabated.

Please support continued full funding for the Oversight Coordinator and work of the Commission to continue its important work. Also, it is in the best interests of the State to make

the Oversight Commission's funding a line item in the State Budget so those who oppose transparency and accountability will no longer be able to impede the work of the Commission.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:16:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Naniole	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

March 5, 2024

Dear Representatives Yamashita, Kitagawa, Aiu, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Kahaloa, Kila, Kobayashi, Lamosao, Morikawa, Nishimoto, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Alcos and Ward, members of the House Committee on Finance:

repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov, repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov, repaiu@capitol.hawaii.gov, repchun@capitol.hawaii.gov, repcochran@capitol.hawaii.gov, repgarrett@capitol.hawaii.gov, repkahaloa@capitol.hawaii.gov, repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov, repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov, replamosao@capitol.hawaii.gov, repmorikawa@capitol.hawaii.gov, repnishimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, repwpoepoe@capitol.hawaii.gov, reptakenouchi@capitol.hawaii.gov, repalsos@capitol.hawaii.gov, repward@capitol.hawaii.gov.

The name is James “Jimmy” Naniole and I am a member of Ohana Ho`opakele.

I want to urge you to protect the budget for The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in HB1800 in its request of \$462,134.

We are all aware of the need to help Lahaina. However, \$462,134 is a small amount toward changing the Correctional System to one based on rehabilitation that will save much funding in the future.

From the experience of Ohana Ho`opakele, the HCSOC has helped in changing the prison system from one based upon punishment to one based on rehabilitation. Without funding for their staff the commission is limited in what it can do. Our members were able to meet with the commission and staff when they held a hearing in Hilo. Without funding, the visits to the neighbor islands and holding of hearings where the public can participate in person will be eliminated. Not everyone has the means and know-how to get on Zoom meetings.

Please restore the full budget request for this important commission!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Jimmy Naniolo (Kupuna)

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:22:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Fei	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Fei and I live in Honolulu, HI. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,

Michelle Fei

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:31:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik and I live in Waikiki. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,
Colleen Rost-Banik

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:36:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sgt. Paul Kyles, OCCC	Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Paul Kyles from the department of public safety OCCC and I am writing to request that you support the budget request from the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission). The Commission is requesting \$462,134 for FY25 which includes four full time positions, travel costs to visit each correctional facility, memberships and conferences, and office equipment.

Although the Commission has existed since 2019 with five unpaid volunteer Commissioners, the HCSOC did not gain staff until July, 2022. Since then, the Commission has brought transparency and accountability to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to fulfill their mandated requirements set by Hawai'i Revised Statute 353L. Having the oversight committee is very important to ensure change to our department.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 12:02:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Carey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Early intervention tremendously helped my son with Autism. I am also a physical therapist and former clinic owner. The biggest impediment to keeping qualified staff is pay. The lack of pay raises within the Speech, Occupation and Physical Therapy fields has lead to a chronic disruption of services. I whole heartedly support an increase in wages for early intervention providers in an effort to allow providers to have the income needed to live in Hawaii.



Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Leslee Matthews and I live and in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii. I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities. I respectfully **requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.**

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education and increasing Counselors and behavioral health specialists in schools
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.
- Harm Reduction treatment programs
- Culturally based Family Strengthening and violence prevention programs
- Re-entry and reintegration Programs

We also support **full funding for the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission** given their critical mandate and work to promote transparency and accountability within our jails and prisons, and to provide opportunities for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to remedy violations of federal and state law, minimum correctional standards and internal policies and procedures.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing public safety. **Given this reality, please REMOVE appropriations for the following projects.**

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Thank you,

Leslee Matthews, Esq., MSW
Founder & Managing Attorney
Attorney | Social Worker | Advocate

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 1:56:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and honorable members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Isis Usborne and I live on Kapahulu between Kaimuki and Waikīkī. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawai'i's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing (and in fact, enhancing) public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the

proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Additionally, please fund the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Committee, which you all failed to do last year. This would be the very least you could do if you plan to move forward with new carceral projects despite their lack of efficacy, as this group provides the necessary feedback about the dire needs in existing jails and prisons.

Mahalo,

Isis Usborne, 96815
Law Student at William S. Richardson School of Law

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 4:35:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Sarasa	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emily Sarasa and I live in Kaimuki. I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

I respectfully **request that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence:**

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education and increasing counselors and behavioral health specialists in schools
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system
- Harm reduction treatment programs
- Culturally based family strengthening and violence prevention programs
- Re-entry and reintegration Programs

We also support **full funding for the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission**, given their critical mandate and work to promote transparency and accountability within our jails and prisons, and to provide opportunities for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to remedy violations of federal and state law, minimum correctional standards and internal policies and procedures.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing public safety. **Given this reality, please REMOVE appropriations for the following projects.**

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison

- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,

Emily Sarasa

March 6, 2024

TO: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: HB 1800 Relating to the State Budget

POSITION: Support full funding of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission

I am writing in strong support of full funding for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) and for establishment of the Commission as a permanent line item in the state budget.

In its short existence, the Coordinator for the Commission has conducted 35 facility visits, 23 public reports including monthly reports, facility-specific reports, 2 strategic plans, 1 year-in-review, and 16 public meetings.

In addition, HCSOC has submitted more than 50 reports to the former Department of Public Safety (now the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation). The work of the Commission and the volunteer commissioners deserve more than year-to-year funding. They deserve to be funded permanently. Their oversight of the correctional system is important for transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

The work of the HCSOC is critical to making improvements in Hawaii's correctional system and is essential if we are to have system transformation of the system which I am hoping for. Improvements in our correctional system also improve public safety in our State.

I respectfully request that the Committee fund the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission this year and in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of the Commission and its important work.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:11:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lisa Darcy and I live in Kula, Maui, HI. I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities. My career that spans 3 decades with individuals with disabilities and living in poverty has seen when the below recommendations are invested in up front, the overall cost in the system decreases.

1. Significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education and increasing Counselors and behavioral health specialists in schools
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.
- Harm Reduction treatment programs
- Culturally based Family Strengthening and violence prevention programs
- Re-entry and reintegration Programs

2. Fully support **full funding for the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission** given their critical mandate and work to promote transparency and accountability within our jails and prisons, and to provide opportunities for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to remedy violations of federal and state law, minimum correctional standards and internal policies and procedures.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without

jeopardizing public safety. **Given this reality, please REMOVE appropriations for the following projects.**

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison
- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo, Lisa Darcy

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:17:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Graham Chelius	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering fully supporting the important work of the Correctional Oversight Committee. I have been working as a part time doctor at KCCC on Kauai for over 2 years, and volunteered for 3 years prior to that trying to improve the medical care and the discharge planning for the inmates at KCCC.

I do a lot of work with substance use disorders in my full time job on Kauai, and have quite a few patients that cycle in and out of KCCC until they make enough progress in recovery to maintain sobriety. While I beleive that these individuals should pay the price for committing crimes, the horrific lack of adequate preparations for release, and prior to my tenure at KCCC, the complete lack of treatment for substance use disorders was and is shocking. It seems like we want them to return to jail, and the widespread toxic apathy among certain services is awful.

Sometimes the truth hurts and the truth is the correctional system in Hawaii is terrible, and a strong and well funded oversight commission is needed for us to catch up with the rest of the nation. These inmates, who largely have treatable mental health conditions, including substance use dirorders, are our community and their lives matter to me, and hopefully to you.

Please support this effort to fund the work of the Oversight Commission. I have given testimony in the past to the Oversight Commission, and have faith that they will continue to shed light, and make valuable recomendations for change.

Graham Chelius MD

Kauai

Aloha members of the committee:

My name is Olivia Chang and I am a college student and intern for Life of the Land. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the budget bill. I offer the following testimony:

1) The governor cannot be given \$2 million to quash *Navahine v. Hawaii*, a lawsuit by young people who are fighting for a livable climate for us all.

14 children are suing the Department of Transportation in for failing to prepare a statewide plan to decarbonize our transportation sector. These plaintiffs are not asking for money: the lawsuit is simply asking the DOT to prepare a plan for decarbonization, which will benefit us all.

These children are only asking for the state to fulfill its obligation to provide a clean, healthy, and livable environment, and it is deeply shameful that the governor is attempting to quash this lawsuit.

All of us have a stake in a clean and livable future. If our governor truly cared about climate action, rather than simply paying lip service, he would immediately direct every agency enact a decarbonization plan. Instead, he chooses to allocate \$2 million in his budget to hire a expensive law firm from the continent that humiliated the young plaintiffs in *Navahine* to tears.

I want to point out something very simple: *this climate crisis will only get worse until we make it stop*. I ask the legislature to move with the urgency and scale dictated by our declaration of climate emergency.

It is frankly appalling that the state continues to waste public resources to fight children who are only asking for the right to a stable climate.

No less than all of our futures are at stake.

2) The Department of Corrections cannot be given an additional \$10 million to continue planning for OCCC.

The DCR has already squandered several million of public funds planning for OCCC, which will now cost almost 1 billion—more than double what the department initially projected it would cost.

Instead of wasting public funds on more jails and prisons, which do not reduce crime and in fact exacerbate it, we need to focus on the root of the problem: addressing mental health needs, houselessness, and poverty that force people into the correctional system. Bail reform and crisis intervention bills will help divert people away from prisons and jails, and make facilities like OCCC less necessary.

3) The Correctional Oversight Commission must be funded now and a permanent line in the budget.

17 individuals died while incarcerated by the State of Hawaii last year. We had *no reporting mechanism for those deaths* before the HCSOC—in other words, we would have no idea that people died in Hawaii’s prisons and jails before this commission was created.

In less than 2 years, the Oversight Coordinator has far exceeded expectations and conducted 35 facility visits, 23 public reports including monthly reports, facility-specific reports, 2 strategic plans, 1 year in review, and 16 public meetings. The sheer magnitude of their work alone should demonstrate should be reason to continue funding the HCSOC, but the 50+ testimonies last month in opposition to cutting the funding for the Oversight Coordinator’s salary—by law enforcement, correctional officers, former judges, and community members—has demonstrated just how valuable the HCSOC has proven in its short lifetime.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 10:40:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Nishimoto	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Scott Nishimoto and I live in Liliha. As a member of the Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i Coalition, I support a state budget that increases investments in services and programs that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities.

We are respectfully requesting that you significantly increase investments in the following areas, which are proven by research and data to dramatically increase safety by addressing the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

- Vocational/employment training for living wage jobs
- Permanent supportive housing and affordable housing
- Youth programs
- Education
- Mobile crisis responder service for all counties paired with 24/7 drop off centers, and health care services that divert people from the criminal legal system.

According to Hawai'i Department of Public Safety data, at least 40% of all people in jail in Hawai'i are homeless. At both the state and local level, Hawaii's elected leaders have made it a priority to divert homeless and mentally ill residents out of jail. This means the jail population will shrink significantly in the coming years. We are also in a time of fiscal crisis, and alternatives exist to reduce our jail and prison population through data-driven strategies without jeopardizing/or enhancing public safety. Given this reality, please remove appropriations for the following projects.

- \$10 MIL for planning and design of OCCC jail
- \$18 MIL perimeter fence for Halawa prison

- \$ 3 MIL for new jail in West Hawaii
- \$3.5 MIL for perimeter fence at MCCC (Maui) jail
- \$20 MIL for planning and design to replace KCCC (Kauai jail)

As our elected representatives, you have the opportunity to finally move our state past the failed approach of funding more policing and incarceration which has not made us safer, toward the proven strategy of funding services and programs that address the root causes of poverty, crime, and violence.

Mahalo,

Scott Nishimoto

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/6/2024 9:34:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/6/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimi Ikeda	Hawaii DOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Kimi Ikeda and I am a principal at Ahuimanu Elementary School.

I am writing to you today to request the inclusion of additional funding into the Hawaii State Department of Education’s (Department) budget for the Weighted Student Formula and for summer enrichment that was included in the Department’s Board-approved budget.

As a principal, I use funding from the weighted student formula for hiring personnel, learning materials, supporting professional development, and extracurricular activities and programs. Additional funding for the weighted student formula could be used for social emotional curriculum, needed supplies for grade level activities (busses and fees), and summer learning programs.

Additionally, the federal funding that made summer enrichment free for all students has been invaluable to my school. With the sunset of this federal funding, the loss of this summer enrichment programming would affect my school by having parents pay for the summer learning programs or we will no longer be able to fund and provide this needed program during the summer. .

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