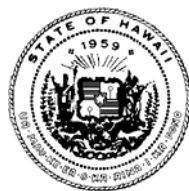


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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RYAN I. YAMANE
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JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

January 31, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2115 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

Hearing: February 3, 2026, Time 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the Legislature's continued support for community-based organizations contracted by DHS to deliver benefits and services across the State and provides comments.

DHS is aware of the increasing costs related to attracting and retaining an experienced human services workforce, rising health care, general liability, and property insurance premiums, and other cost increases identified in the measure. The bill would help to preserve the community's capacity to deliver essential human services to Hawaii's residents.

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

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

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



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR

DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

**TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
February 3, 2026, 9:00 am

HOUSE BILL 2115
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2115. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the Legislature's commitment to provide additional resources to organizations serving the community.

The bill suggests distributing newly appropriated funds through supplemental amendments to existing contracts. While expedient, this approach would circumvent the competitive procurement processes that safeguard fairness, transparency, and accountability in the expenditure of public funds. These principles are statutory requirements designed to ensure integrity and public trust.

Supplemental funding issued in this manner would constitute a material modification to contract scope and value, without actually changing the scope of work. The additional funds were neither disclosed nor negotiated during the original solicitation or award process. Unilateral increases under these circumstances undermine the procurement code and erode the protections it provides against favoritism and inequity.

From an industry perspective, the original procurement environment was shaped by funding limits known at the time. Providers who declined to bid – or were unable to submit competitive offers – did so based on those constraints. Had the availability of additional funds been disclosed, more providers may have participated, potentially yielding greater competition, improved pricing, and innovative service models. Awarding supplemental funds exclusively to existing contractors creates an uneven playing field and diminishes confidence in the competitive process.

Moreover, implementing this measure through contract amendments sets a troubling precedent. It would allow new appropriations to be distributed without the transparency and rigor of solicitation, evaluation, and award – contrary to statutory procurement controls and best practices. Such an approach risks compromising the State’s ability to demonstrate best value for taxpayer dollars.

For these reasons, the SPO strongly recommends that any additional funds be allocated through a procurement method that reflects revised funding levels and affords all qualified providers an equal opportunity to compete. Doing so will uphold the core principles of fairness, competition, and accountability that are fundamental to public procurement.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your continued commitment to transparent and equitable procurement practices.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

SUPPORT FOR HB 2115: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Tuesday, February 3, 2025, 9:00 AM; CR 329 or Videoconference**

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2115**, which seeks additional funding for the Department of Human Services to address rising labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and fuel costs for contracted Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). My name is Tina Andrade from Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt, Community-Based Organization that has provided social services in Hawai'i for more than 78 years, now serving over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. CCH offers a wide range of programs supporting children, families, older adults, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for Hawai'i's most vulnerable, and we have a long-standing history of leadership in affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and child welfare.

We are also a member of the **Hawai'i True Cost Coalition**, a network of CBOs collectively serving more than 500,000 people across the state. Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations—including children, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those requiring critical social services—depend heavily on the infrastructure provided by CBOs. Unfortunately, while operating costs have continued to rise, funding has remained stagnant. The impacts of recent crises, including the Maui wildfires, have pushed many organizations to a breaking point.

With the ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal funding, it is essential that Hawai'i act decisively to protect the continuity of services delivered in partnership with the Department of Human Services. Over the past decade, program costs have increased dramatically, but contract payments have not kept pace. Agencies are now facing difficult decisions that could result in reduced services—or even program closures—if this funding gap is not addressed.

Without additional support, programs related to homelessness prevention, employment services, and child welfare will be particularly at risk. **HB 2115 is a vital measure** to stabilize these essential programs and ensure that Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents continue to receive the assistance they rely on.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition strongly supports HB 2115 as an urgently needed investment in the long-term health and resilience of our social service system. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure. Thank you for considering this important legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President of Mission, Shellie Niles, at **808-527-4813**.



Adult Friends for Youth

"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"

PRESIDENT AND CEO
*Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun,
M.S.W.*

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**Past Chair of the Board*

Testimony on HB2115

Submitted to: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

From: Debbie Spencer-Chun, President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth (AFY).
In support of HB2115.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify.

As the President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth for the past 17 years and having worked directly with high-risk youth for over 20 years, it comes as no surprise that the needs have grown despite the great work that many Community-Based Organizations deliver to our society.

For many years, CBOs have had to deliver services at the same rate. We often don't get paid the full amount and have to offset our budgets with other funding, making it a balancing act to stay afloat. Some key concerns, according to a 2022 survey conducted by True Cost Coalition of Community-Based Organizations, are

- "79% had to cut administrative costs." (Noting that some private funders are not allowing this cost either.)

Examples:

1. Salaries: It takes people to conduct the services, so salaries are critical. Our staff has to wear dual hats as administrators and direct service roles, which means that we can only charge percentages of their time. In turn, our staff must submit timesheets/salary worksheets to the government, which means more paperwork and the need to provide statistics on their daily duties. Do government workers have to do this?
2. Rent: This is not seen as critical. Yet, our staff needs a safe space to write reports, prepare sessions, conduct mediation, conduct group sessions with high-risk youth (especially during violent crisis situations), provide individual and family counseling sessions, and so much more.
3. Insurance: The government has a threshold that we must meet for insurance coverage, but it does not consider the rising costs. (Note: According to TCC, "Insurance expenses rose by 40.8% (adjusted for 2022 dollars).")

There are many more examples, but for the sake of this testimony, I will limit them to these three points.

As times have become increasingly challenging, our reliance on community-based organizations has grown stronger than ever. These organizations are on the front lines providing essential services — from housing support to crisis intervention — often on behalf of state agencies. Yet government contract rates have not kept pace with the true cost of delivering these services, leaving a widening gap between funding and need that threatens the stability of the social safety net our communities rely on. House Bill 2115 recognizes this critical issue.

In these uncertain times, we need our local government to stand with our community partners — not only in words but in meaningful, sustained investment — so that CBOs can continue delivering the vital services that strengthen neighborhoods and safeguard the well-being of our most vulnerable residents.

Mahalo for your time. I appreciate you allowing me to share my mana'o.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Spencer-Chun

HB-2115

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 10:23:03 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Marsh	Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2115
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB2115**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increased costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

I currently serve as President & CEO of **Hale Kipa**, a Hawai'i-based nonprofit that has served vulnerable youth and families for over 55 years. Every day, our organization—and many like us across the state, stands in the gap for children, youth, and 'ohana who are navigating trauma, instability, and crisis. We do this work not for profit, but out of deep kuleana to our communities.

However, the reality is this: **the cost of doing business in Hawai'i has risen dramatically, while state contract funding has not kept pace.**

Community-based organizations are facing unprecedented increases in:

- **Labor costs**, as we strive to pay our staff fair, livable wages in one of the most expensive states in the nation
- **Insurance premiums**, which have risen sharply and threaten the viability of essential programs
- **Utilities, rent, and fuel**, all of which are unavoidable costs tied directly to keeping programs open and accessible

These are not optional expenses. They are the basic costs of keeping our doors open, our facilities safe, our staff supported, and our services uninterrupted.

When contracts remain flat while costs rise, nonprofits are forced into impossible choices to cut services, leave positions unfilled, reduce hours, or absorb deficits that weaken long-term sustainability. **Ultimately, it is the people we collectively serve...our most vulnerable keiki, youth, and families who pay the price.**

HB2115 is a practical, responsive, and much-needed measure. It recognizes that community-based organizations are true partners of the State and that sustaining these partnerships requires funding structures that reflect today's economic realities. Supplemental contracts tied

to real cost increases are not a luxury, they are a necessity to ensure continuity, quality, and stability of care.

Investing in community-based organizations is an investment in prevention, healing, and long-term outcomes. When nonprofits are adequately supported, we can retain experienced staff, maintain safe facilities, and remain focused on what matters most: **helping people heal, stabilize, and thrive.**

I urge you to pass HB2115 and send a clear message that Hawai'i values its nonprofit partners and understands that strong human services require sustainable funding.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your continued commitment to the people of Hawai'i.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Venus Rosete-Medeiros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros
President & CEO, Hale Kipa



HB2115 DHS Adjust for Inflation

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026: 9:00: Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2115:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.

Community-based organizations are essential partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide.

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- Labor, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- Insurance, including liability and workers' compensation
- Utilities and fuel, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- Rent and facility costs, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities

Non-profits operate on thin margins and are often contractually obligated to deliver services at fixed reimbursement rates that have not kept pace with current economic conditions.

Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations.

**PROVIDERS ARE NOW FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS –
REDUCE SERVICES, FREEZING PROGRAMS, DECREASE
OUTCOMES FROM STAFF BURNOUT, OR CLOSE ENTIRELY.**

This would shift costs back to the state through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies. It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair

Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

9:00 am

Room 329 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2115 – DHS FUNDING FOR CBOS FOR INCREASED COST OF PROVIDING VITAL SERVICES

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds 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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,654 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on January 26, 2026. We are always mindful that 799 – 43% of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population 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 is a member of the True Cost Coalition (TCCs) and we appreciate the opportunity to express our strong support of HB 2115 that increases the funding to our incredible community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide vital services to some of our most vulnerable neighbors. CBOs do the work that the government is unable to do to lift our communities and neighbors who are struggling with a myriad of issues.

We thank the committee for being partners with the TCC to address some of the most pressing issues Hawai'i is facing, especially now when federal funding is being slashed and our people are suffering. This is the time to live up to our values as a caring

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, January 26, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-01-26.pdf](#)

community that understands that each person's health and well-being is crucial to building safe and healthy communities across Hawai'i nei.

Therefore, we hope the committee sees the necessity of passing HB 2115 so these community-based organizations can continue to build staff who are adequately compensated and to pay for the increased costs of insurance, rent, utilities and gas, etc..

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts and support for these tireless community heroes who are in the trenches every day helping some of our most vulnerable neighbors!



HB2115 DHS Adjust for Inflation

Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026: 9:00: Room 329 Videoconference

Hina Mauka Supports HB2115:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.

Community-based organizations are essential partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide. **Non-profits are part of the overall government support plan for our most vulnerable citizens, but are funded well below sustainability.**

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- **Labor**, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- **Insurance**, including liability and workers' compensation
- **Utilities and fuel**, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- **Rent and facility costs**, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities



Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations



Failing to support this bill will shift costs back to the state through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies. It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

Despite years of inflation, labor, insurance, and other rising costs, many of our most vulnerable providers are making decisions about potentially shutting down or cutting programs, due to rates that have not been updated in more than a decade.



House Committee Human Services and Homelessness
February 3, 2026 at 9: AM
Room 329

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2115

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), I am writing **support of HB2115**, which aims to increase funding for the Department of Human Services to enhance its partnership with nonprofit organizations.

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

Hawai'i relies on nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide vital social services to its most vulnerable residents. However, the ability of these organizations to deliver these critical services effectively depends on fair funding and strong partnerships between the government and nonprofit providers.

HANO supports this bill as an essential step in addressing Hawai'i's increasing social service needs. By closing the current funding gap in nonprofit contracts, Hawai'i can enhance access to critical services like benefits, childcare, workforce training, and homelessness support, all while strengthening community stability and well-being.

In addition, with the ongoing uncertainty around federal funding for social services, Hawai'i must act quickly to protect the stability of essential programs through the Department of Human Services. Federal funding can be inconsistent, and any reductions could disproportionately affect key services. This bill is crucial for ensuring that Hawai'i's residents continue to receive the services they rely on, regardless of changes in federal programs and funding availability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

February 3, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB2115, Relating to Human Services

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and esteemed members of the committee,

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is writing its strong support of HB2115, relating to human services. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

Hawai'i's safety net often goes unnoticed—until it begins to fray. This safety net is built on community-based organizations that provide essential services state agencies cannot deliver alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising just to keep their doors open. Without swift action, these pressures could lead to further program cuts, leaving Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on. As a point of reference, we have examined the costsⁱ that go into providing services that government would otherwise have to provide. The True Cost Coalition members report working under contracts without budget increases for over ten years.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of more than 70 community-based nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 residents statewide. Since its formation in 2020, the coalition has worked to strengthen partnerships between nonprofits and the State of Hawai'i to ensure public funds are allocated equitably, efficiently, and sustainably, particularly as inflation and stagnant contract rates have strained service delivery. By advocating for fair and realistic funding, the coalition helps safeguard critical programs for children, kupuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence—ensuring that nonprofits can continue providing the vital care and support on which so many residents rely.

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

HB2115 addresses critical funding gaps for the Department of Human Services, strengthening partnerships with community providers and sustaining core safety-net programs. Increased DHS funding would bolster housing stability, food security, youth services, and support for low-income households, while helping to stabilize the nonprofit workforce that delivers these programs on the ground. This measure represents a necessary investment in Hawai'i's social infrastructure—one that promotes community well-being today and secures essential services for years to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

ⁱ Hawai'i Human Services Nonprofits - Ten Year Comparison of Operating Expenses

Category	Years compared	Absolute Change	Average Annual Change
Electricity (cents/kWh)	2015-2024	41.8%	4.5%
Insurance (annual total of relevant premiums)	2014-2023	46.3%	4.5%
Payroll (annual average/employee)	2013-2022	44.1%	4.2%
Inflation (CPI All Items)	2015-2024	30.8%	3.0%

**Estimated office rent increased 7.8 percent over ten years, variable based on island/location.*

Souce: Hawaii Data Collaborative in cooperation with the True Cost Coalition January, 2026

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu



**Parents And
Children Together**
BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2115 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Chair Marten, Vice-Chair Olds, & Members,
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
FROM: Trisha Kajimura, PACT Vice-President of Strategy and External Affairs
Ryan Kusumoto, PACT President & CEO
DATE: February 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) strongly supports HB 2115, which appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increase in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

We submit this testimony as a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition – over 70 community-based non-profit organizations fighting to sustain essential social services for our communities. The people of our community are strong, resilient and capable yet challenged by systems of scarcity that are difficult to overcome without targeted support. They must be supported by high-quality organizations that are sustainable, with employees paid adequately to meet community needs. State contracts that have not increased over time as operating costs increase make this important work unsustainable. We support increases to these contracts because the need for social services in our state is higher than ever.

Community-based organizations like PACT have always been willing to raise private funds to supplement the revenue of government contracts but the lack of increases in contract revenue has made this fundraising load impossible to keep up with. The current financial model is reaching a breaking point.

Founded by residents of Kuhio Park Terrace in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or tkajimura@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HB-2115

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:43:59 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Tochiki	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB 2115 - JUDICIARY FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee,

The community-based organizations that provide services to the judiciary are essential to its day-to-day function, and to the people of Hawai‘i. I write today wearing two hats: as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mediation Centers of Hawai‘i and as Interim CEO of the Domestic Violence Action Center.

The Mediation Centers of Hawai‘i has had a contract with the state judiciary to provide mediation services directly in courthouses and to litigants in court cases. Across the state, thousands of disputes are resolved every year under our contract. The result is both better outcomes for litigants who can resolve disputes amicably, and huge cost savings to the state judiciary.

Similarly, the Domestic Violence Action Center provides critical legal advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence through our judiciary contract. Our attorneys and advocates work directly with survivors navigating the court system — helping them obtain protective orders, represent themselves in family court, and access the justice system safely. These services are not optional extras; they are essential to ensuring access to justice for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Both organizations face the same challenge: our contracts do not cover the true cost of the services we provide, and these contracts have not been increased for more than a decade. Meanwhile, the cost of operating has increased significantly — wages, utilities, and administrative expenses have all risen substantially. As a result, many organizations providing court-related services are unable to cover their full costs and maintain stable operations. This jeopardizes the continuity and effectiveness of critical services that the judiciary depends upon.

Without adequate funding, we cannot:

- Maintain competitive salaries to retain experienced staff
- Meet the growing demand for services

- Cover basic operational costs
- Continue providing the quality of services the judiciary and the community depend upon

HB 2115 addresses this critical need by mandating statutory support for the continued delivery of these essential services. This bill recognizes that community-based organizations providing court-related services are integral components of our justice system and deserve sustainable, adequate funding.

I strongly urge you to support HB 2115. The cost of not adequately funding these services will be far greater — both in terms of overburdened courts and diminished access to justice for Hawai‘i’s families and communities.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Tochiki, JD, Ph.D.

Chair, Board of Directors, Mediation Centers of Hawai‘i

Interim CEO, Domestic Violence Action Center

To: State of Hawaii, House of Representatives Human Services & Homelessness Committee

From: Emily Lau, Vice President of Human Services, Goodwill Hawaii

Date: February 1, 2026

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2115

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the Human Services & Homelessness Committee,

My name is Emily Lau, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Goodwill Hawaii in strong support of HB 2115, relating to the appropriation of funding to Department of Human Services to increase funds to community-based organizations to address increases in cost.

Goodwill Hawaii serves some of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations—at risks youths, people with disabilities, individuals experiencing homelessness, people receiving public assistance such as TANF or SNAP benefits etc. These individuals and families rely heavily on the safety net provided by CBOs like Goodwill. However, stagnant funding levels and rising operational costs have significantly impacted the financial sustainability of these community-based organizations. Goodwill Hawaii, as one of the leading CBOs in Hawaii, has to continuously look for other sources of funding to supplement costs associated with Government contracts, and to support our continuous operations.

Goodwill Hawaii has been providing employment, training, and case management services to Hawaii's vulnerable populations since 1959. Our mission is to help people with employment barriers to reach their full potential and become self-sufficient. We have been receiving funding from the Department of Human Services for over 20 years to provide essential services to adults and youths. For most of the contracts we have with DHS, the contract amount has not increased for years. Despite the stagnant contract fund, we still have to increase staff wages and pay the increase in cost of other expenses such as rent and supplies. The increase in cost has intensified in recent years after the pandemic. As a result, it is harder and harder to operate the programs effectively without enough funding to cover the true cost of operations. We often need to compensate by not paying our staff a competitive wage, which resulted in difficulty in recruitment and high staff turnover due to staff finding better paying positions with for profit companies. Many of our staff moved on to work for the state because of higher wage and better benefits. An increase in contract price is essential for us to operate the program well and to continue providing quality services to the most vulnerable populations in Hawaii. This bill is a necessary step toward addressing Hawaii's growing social service needs. By strengthening collaborations with agencies like Goodwill, we can improve access to benefits, childcare, workforce training, and homelessness services while promoting stability and well-being in our communities.

Given the ongoing uncertainty of federal spending on social service programs, Hawaii must take decisive action to ensure the stability of critical services provided through the Department of Human Services. Federal resources often fluctuate, and possible reductions in funding could disproportionately impact programs supporting homelessness, employment support, and child welfare. This bill is a necessary safeguard to guarantee that Hawaii's most vulnerable populations continue receiving the assistance they need.

Goodwill Hawaii supports HB 2115 because it directly addresses an urgent funding gap that, if left unchecked, would jeopardize the critical services Hawaii families depend on.

We urge you to pass this measure and invest in the future of Hawaii's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Emily Lau
Vice President of Human Services
Goodwill Hawaii



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Board of Directors

February 1, 2026

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My name is Peter Tui Silva, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Kumukahi Health + Wellness. I also submit this testimony as a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition. I write in strong support of HB2115, which provides supplemental funding to community-based organizations contracted with the Department of Human Services to address rising operational costs.

Kumukahi Health + Wellness is based on Hawai'i Island, where the challenges identified in HB2115 are even more difficult. Rural geography, limited workforce availability, long travel distances, and higher transportation costs significantly increase the cost of delivering services. Staff routinely travel hours to reach clients, fuel costs are unavoidable, and recruiting and retaining qualified professionals is increasingly difficult when contract rates do not reflect real-world conditions.

Chief Executive Officer

Peter Tuiolosega Silva

Like many nonprofit providers, we deliver essential services on behalf of the State, often to individuals and families with complex needs. Yet state contract rates have remained largely stagnant while costs for labor, insurance, rent, utilities, and transportation have steadily increased. On Hawai'i Island, these pressures are magnified. Providers are expected to do more with less, across greater distances, with fewer available resources.

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As members of the True Cost Coalition, we believe state contracts should cover the true cost of delivering mandated and priority services. When they do not, nonprofits are forced to subsidize government services through fundraising, reserves, and staff burnout. This is not sustainable and threatens the long-term stability of Hawai'i's social services infrastructure, particularly in neighbor island communities where alternatives are limited or nonexistent.

HB2115 is a practical and timely response. By issuing supplemental contracts across critical service areas, the bill helps stabilize providers, strengthen the workforce, and ensure continuity of care for our most vulnerable residents. Adequate funding allows organizations to retain experienced staff, meet compliance requirements, and deliver services with quality, consistency, and dignity.

kumukahiHEALTH.org

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For Hawai'i Island, this investment is especially critical. Without action, the gap between community need and provider capacity will continue to widen. HB2115 represents a meaningful step toward equity for neighbor island providers and the communities we serve.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB2115.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued commitment to Hawai'i's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tuiolosega Silva
Chief Executive Officer
Kumukahi Health + Wellness
Member, Hawai'i True Cost Coalition



February 1, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB 2115 Relating to the Department of Human Services

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of **HB 2115**, which increases funding for the Department of Human Services to enhance its partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and ensure the service it depends upon CBOs to administer can be adequately funded.

Hawaii's most vulnerable—children, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those in need of social services—are forced to rely heavily on the safety net provided by CBOs. However, funding levels have not kept pace with rapidly rising operational and staffing costs, and crises like the recent government shutdown and federal funding disruptions have pushed these organizations to the brink.

This bill is a necessary step toward strengthening collaborations with CBOs, which will improve access to benefits, childcare, workforce training, and homelessness services while helping the State to meet its goals for stability and well-being in our communities.

Federal resources often fluctuate, and reductions in funding could disproportionately impact programs supporting homelessness, employment support, and child welfare. This bill is necessary to ensure that Hawaii's most vulnerable populations continue receiving the assistance they need, regardless of federal budget changes.

Aloha United Way and the True Cost Coalition support HB 2115 because it directly addresses an urgent funding gap that is jeopardizing critical services for Hawaii families.

We urge you to pass HB 2115 to strengthen CBOs so they can continue to provide vital services to our state's most vulnerable residents.

Mahalo for considering this important legislation.

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way

HB-2115

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:40:39 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonia Blackiston	Hawaii Youth Services Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs,

Hawaii Youth Services Network strongly supports HB 2115. We urge you to advance this important measure.

Mahalo.



Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2115, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2115, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES."

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The measure, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2026-2027, for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas so long as the funds are equitably distributed and allocated for child protective services (HMS301), adult protective and community care services (HMS601), vocational rehabilitation (HMS802), homeless services (HMS224), general support for child care (HMS302), general support for self-sufficiency services (HMS903), general support for health care payments (HMS902), and in-community youth programs (HMS501).

During the interim following the Adjournment Sine Die of the 2025 Regular Session, three events took place that have enormous ramifications on Hawaii's social safety net. These were: the enactment of House Resolution No. 1 (H.R. 1), the "One Big Beautiful Bill" Act, which was signed into law on July 4, 2026; the reversal of interpretation of "federal public benefit" under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, or "PRWORA", by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and the announcement that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will share personal data of Medicaid enrollees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

In tandem, these three developments will fundamentally alter Hawaii's Medicaid Program by shifting current Medicaid recipients to the uninsured population. Among other things, H.R. 1 will:

- (1) Prohibit the use of federal matching funds for health care services to immigrants not lawfully present under federal law, effective October 1, 2026;
- (2) Establish work or volunteer requirements for all Medicaid recipients of at least 80 hours per month (or 20 hours per week), effective December 31, 2026; and
- (3) Require redeterminations for every Medicaid recipient every six-months, also effective December 31, 2026.

Currently, Hawaii's uninsured population is estimated to be 38,400 or 2.8% of the total population. Based on research provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation as well as our review of Medicaid enrollment historically in Hawaii, we believe the uninsured population will at least double within two to three years if nothing is done.

Without health insurance coverage, citizens will no longer be able to manage chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other maladies. When they become ill, they will not get treated until the situation becomes so bad that they will need to go to a provider for emergency treatment. By then, the illness has become much more severe and costly to remedy. Also, by law, the emergency provider will have to provide stabilizing treatment to the patient regardless of the patient's ability to pay. These costs will subsequently be borne by the provider, creating additional stress to the safety net that is already facing reduced funding and reimbursement.

In the worst-case scenario, hospitals and FQHCs will not be able to treat the increase in indigent patients. While federal law requires FQHCs to provide services to all patients who are not eligible for Medicaid or private insurance on a sliding fee scale based on their ability to pay, federal grant funding to offset these costs were not adjusted to address the increase that will occur. As such, should Hawaii experience the largest projected increase in uninsured (and assuming the level of services currently provided remains the same), FQHCs will run out of funds within two to three months.

In light of this, the HPCA wholehearted supports House Bill No. 2115, which would, among other things, provide DHS with additional resources for "general support for health care payments (HMS902)". Line Item HMS902 provides support for the implementation of the Medicaid Program (HMS401). Given the enormous changes impacting Hawaii's Medicaid population and the reduction of federal funds, it will be vital for the State to develop additional funding mechanisms to continue essential services.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2115
Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
Page 3

Accordingly, the HPCA respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



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

TO: Honorable Rep. Lisa Marten
Chair, House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Honorable Rep. Ikaika Olds
Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

DATE: February 3, 2026

POSITION: IHS supports HB2115 Relating to Human Services

IHS, The Institute for Human Services, **strongly supports** HB2115, which aims to increase funding for the Department of Human Services to enhance its partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who sustain our State's Safety Net. Hawaii's most vulnerable populations—children, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those in need of social services—rely heavily on these organizations to sustain stable housing and maintain independence. Stagnant funding levels and rising operational costs, especially following crises like the Maui wildfires, have pushed these vital CBOs to the brink. We continue to see homeless service providers close their doors, case management programs sunset, and organizations take out risky lines of credit to cover operational costs. Some, like IHS, have broadened core services to integrate fee-for-service contracts to keep critical services available, but even those rates have failed to keep pace with the cost of providing clinical case management in our shelters or pre-housing navigation.

For nearly 48 years, IHS has offered critical support to those experiencing homelessness, from emergency shelter and meals to healthcare, job training, and housing. Such services come at a cost that often cannot be passed on to our clients, so we rely on government contracts supplemented by private donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

This bill is a crucial step to address Hawaii's expanding social service needs. By strengthening collaborations with CBOs, we can improve access to benefits, childcare, workforce training, and homelessness services while promoting stability and well-being in our communities. Given the ongoing uncertainty of federal spending on social service programs, Hawaii must take decisive action to ensure the stability of critical services provided through the Department of Human Services. Federal resources fluctuate—we saw much of this in 2026—funding reductions often disproportionately affect programs supporting homelessness, employment, and child welfare. To truly end cycles of homelessness, wraparound, holistic solutions are needed.

IHS' services are rooted in a mission to equip individuals with the skills and resources to live independently in long-term permanent housing. To fill the gap left by current State contracts, we do our best to secure funding through billable services via insurance and rely heavily on private donors and philanthropic foundations, all of which allow us to continue operating. However, the administrative burden of doing so requires building greater capacity, which entails more costs and needed funding. Mahalo for your leadership in addressing this critical issue and for this opportunity to testify.

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Phone 808.681.3500
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www.childandfamilyservice.org

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Dear Chair Marten and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness,

On behalf of Child and Family Service (CFS), I am writing to express our **strong support for HB 2115** and to respectfully urge the committee to advance this essential legislation.

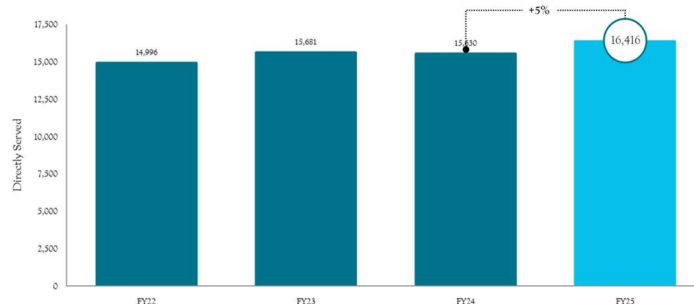
CFS is a community-based provider delivering critical services to children and families through Department of Human Services contracts. Our ability to provide timely, effective, and ethically responsible interventions is directly tied to whether contract rates reflect the true and increasing costs of service delivery.

Provisional and operational costs, including workforce expenses, compliance requirements, administrative demands, and service complexity have continued to increase significantly over time, while contract funding has remained largely stagnant. These pressures are compounded by steep increases in required operating expenses; notably, professional liability insurance costs have **tripled since last year alone**. This growing gap presents not only a sustainability challenge for providers, but an ethical concern, as it becomes increasingly difficult to provide appropriate, high-quality interventions to a growing number of families without funding that reflects real-world conditions.

This fiscal year alone, CFS has already supported more than **3,229 children and families**. In a typical year, we serve **over 7,000 children and families** through DHS-contracted programs. Demand continues to rise. For example, service volume has increased 30% over the past four years, with an additional 1% increase in individuals served in FY 2025-26.

Beyond direct services, CFS reached **117,000 families** statewide last year, a **5% year-over-year increase**, underscoring both growing need and CFS's role as a cornerstone of Hawai'i's safety-net system. (See four-year trend chart).

4 Year Trend: Directly Served



ENROLLMENT TREND DATA	N
FY25	16,416
FY24	15,630
FY23	15,681
FY22	14,996

FY25 DATA SPOTLIGHT:
Program Enrollment in FY25 increased by ~5% over FY24. This is in part due to new programming such as ORC & ELP (Kauai & Oahu).



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Hawaii Island United Way



HB 2115 addresses the growing gap between DHS contract rates with the true costs of service delivery. Doing so helps maintain service quality, reduce workforce strain, and ensure continuity of care for children and families who rely on these essential programs.

Of the approximately 4,000 children and 7,000 families we serve each year, nearly 90% experience positive outcomes through CFS. While healing and success look different for every family, progress often follows a path similar to the one outlined below.

A survivor arrived at our shelter with her two young children; they had fled in the middle of the night with only a small bag. For years, her abuser controlled every aspect of their lives, including her SNAP benefits and access to money. He would often withhold food as punishment, forcing her and the children to go hungry. Upon entering our shelter, she broke down in tears when staff offered her family a warm meal and access to our food pantry. For the first time in months, she was able to feed her children without fear. Through funding, our shelter is able to maintain stocked pantries, purchase fresh produce, and offer nutritious meals daily. This access to food did more than fill their stomachs, it gave her a sense of dignity and stability. She shared that being able to feed her children “made her feel like a mother again.” With consistent meals and a safe environment, she was able to focus on rebuilding her life, securing employment, and transitioning into stable housing.

Child and Family Service **strongly supports HB 2115** and appreciates the committee’s leadership in addressing the sustainability of our human services system. We respectfully urge your support as this bill moves forward.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to children and families across our state.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pump

President and CEO



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promoting health,
creating wellness, and
fighting stigma
in Hawai'i and
the Pacific."*

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2115

TO: Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, & HSH Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, Policy & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 3, 2026 (9:00M)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2115, which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas .

HHHRC is a member of [Partners in Care \(PIC\)](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. In alignment with PIC and other non-profit members of the [True Cost Coalition](#), we have been meeting with legislators and departments in recent years to increase funding for work that it outlined in multi-year service contracts.

Service providers across the state have been struggling to meet the significant increases in costs related to business operations, including increases to insurance premiums, rent, equipment procurement and maintenance, and energy. Recruiting and retaining frontline staff continues to be increasingly difficult given the lack of flexibility in salary structures. Many employees, including those with valuable lived expertise with homelessness, behavioral health issues, and criminal legal system involvement, have taken additional part-time jobs in the service sector or have departed from our agency for full-time service sector employment.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions, and have also been deeply impacted by trauma related to histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



To: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Maria Rallojay, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 9:00am, Conference Room 329

RE: **HB2115 Relating to Human Services**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB2115**. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increase costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole-person care and health equity includes addressing various social determinants of health. As part of the safety net, we understand that health outcomes are shaped by far more than traditional care. Many of the services CBOs provide under contract with DHS (such as housing supports, food security programs, services for individuals facing homelessness or crisis, etc.) directly address core SDOH needs that determine whether people can stay healthy, safe, and stable. When these services are underfunded, families experience preventable crises that impact their health. For these reasons, we support this measure to stabilize our CBOs infrastructure to prevent service disruptions, strengthen continuity, and reduce downstream harms.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB2115**.



February 2, 2026

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.,
Via VideoConference, Conference Room #329
Regarding HB No. 2115, "Relating to Human Services"

Dear Chair Marten and Vice Chair Olds and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

We ask that you **strongly support HB 2115** to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

Partners in Development Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that inspires and equips families and communities for success and service, using timeless Native Hawaiian values and traditions. Since 1997, PIDF has served more than 171,000 people in over 75 communities across the state (www.pidf.org). PIDF has a strong record of managing complex, multi-year federal and state grants with measurable results in early childhood education, family engagement, and youth justice. PIDF continues to step to the frontline to meet the ever-changing needs of our low-income, remote, and rural families and communities, including operating a COVID quarantine hotel to keep families safe and healthy during the pandemic, to supporting families displaced by the Maui wildfires to heal and rebuild, to continuing to support and strengthen our most vulnerable children, youth and families as they navigate increasing living costs, unemployment, and loss of federal resources.

It is vital that this critical work provided by not only Partners in Development Foundation but the many other nonprofit organizations in our state continue to be supported through sufficient resources to sustainably operate and HB 2115 will accomplish this by increasing the level of funding available to these nonprofit organizations who are stepping in the gap to meet the needs that government entities cannot fully address. **We ask that you support HB 2115 to equip nonprofit organizations to meet our rising expenses to enable us to continue serving the people of Hawai'i.**

On behalf of Partners in Development Foundation and our many nonprofit partners serving tirelessly in our state, mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this request.

Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer

Judith F. Clark
48-218 Kamehameha Highway
808-499-9966
Judithforceclark@gmail.com
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

January 30, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB 2115 Relating to Human Services

As a community advocate and the former Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network who worked for non-profit organizations for 50 years, I strongly support HB 2115 which aims to increase funding for the Department of Health to enhance its partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

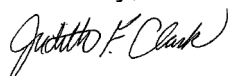
Hawaii's most vulnerable populations including children, youth, and young adults, need mental health, developmental disability, maternal and child health, family strengthening, and other services provided by CBOs. It takes a network of trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and accessible services to enable our young people to make successful transitions to adulthood and support our families and kupuna.

CBOs struggle to attract and retain qualified staff. When contracts and grants do not pay the full cost of providing services, CBOs are not able to pay competitive wages. Workers choose higher paying jobs or places with a lower cost of living. It is shameful that too many of our CBO staff qualify for public assistance benefits. Staff working with homeless persons are often concerned about becoming homeless themselves. One outreach worker shared with me, "If my landlord raises my rent, I won't be able to afford my housing."

Non-profits cannot take on state contracts and provide high quality services when the amount of funding is insufficient to provide the mandated services. Some contracts run for as long as 6 years with no increases. This is exacerbated by recent cuts in and restrictions on federal funding to non-profits.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

HB-2115

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:45:52 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for allowing testimony in support of HB2115. Allowing individuals to apply for SNAP, food benefits, prior to exiting incarceration, increases the success for individual's transitioning back into the community. Supporting an individual's basic needs such as food, is instrumental in preventing the cycle of incarceration. Individuals need to be supported, in all aspects of need, including housing, to have a chance at becoming a contributing member of society.

Social service agencies accessing the jails to provide these enrollment services, prior to release, gives individuals a headstart at normalizing their lives, back within their support systems. Upon release, individuals will then have funding for food, decreasing their dependence on their support systems. This may increase the long-term successes remaining with their support systems, until they establish independent means of earning a living. (Also introducing job training/skill building services during incarceration could only increase an individuals success at independent lives)

Mahalo for your time and please consider supporting this bill and ideas,

Jill Sachiko Bauss, MSW

HB-2115

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 1:22:30 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Human services workers perform core needs for our society and better pay is needed to retain workers and provide a living wage.

Karen Worthington, Kula, HI 96790

January 31, 2026

To: Chair Lisa Marten and Vice Chair Ikaika Olds
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Karen Worthington, Private Citizen

Re: **HB 2115: Relating to Human Services**
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329 and Videoconference, February 3, 2026, 9:00am

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2115 which strengthens our Hawai'i social services safety net by appropriating funds to the department of human services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas.

Please pass HB 2115 and fully cover the costs of serving our state's most vulnerable residents. Currently, many of those costs are covered by the organizations providing services rather than by our tax dollars. Passing on the costs of mandated services to nonprofit organizations is not sustainable and causes a cascade of unintended negative impacts on services, clients, and providers. I ask you to support HB 2115 and fully cover the costs of providing essential support services on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

If you would like additional information related to my testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me at karen@karenworthington.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Worthington

Honorable Chair Marten and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

HB2115

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT

I am Christine Remigio, a Masters of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in favor of HB2115, which appropriates critical funding to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community based organizations (CBOs). This bill directly addresses the unsustainable financial pressures threatening the very infrastructure of social pressures in Hawaii, pressures I witness firsthand as a social work graduate student.

The findings of this bill resonate deeply with my experiences. The increase rise in costs of labor, insurance, and operations has created a crisis for organizations that many of our most vulnerable residents rely on. This funding is an essential investment in the stability and quality of our state's safety net.

My personal experience highlight the bill's urgency, particularly fair labor compensation. I currently balance two roles:

1. A graduate assistantship where I am paid for my work
2. A mandatory, unpaid Field Placement at a Federally Qualified Health Center, required to earn my degree

The difference in my capacity to contribute is stark. In my paid role, I can focus fully and produce quality work. In contrast, I am unpaid at field site, an FQHC that is a vital community based provider already stretched thin. While I am deeply committed to the mission of serving our most underserved populations, the financial reality is burdensome. I, like many of my peers, struggle with the cost of living while balancing school and work without compensation. This odel discourages various talented individuals from entering or remaining in the behavioral and social work fields within these critical settings, exacerbating the staffing shortages.

I urge you to PASS H.B. No. 2115. Please provide the Department of Human Services with these necessary funds to ensure the continuity of care for our neighbors and build a sustainability future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community

Respectfully,
Christine Remigio
Master of Social Work Student
University of Hawaii at Manoa
cremigio@hawaii.edu

February 3, 2026

**Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2115,
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Via Video conference and CR 329

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds and Committee Members,

My name is Shannon Alivado and I am writing in strong support of HB 2115, Relating to the Human Services, which proposes to ensure the continued delivery of essential services in support of the judiciary's statutory mandate to serve our most vulnerable population and keiki. HB 2115 recognizes the costs of these important and necessary services provided by our community-based organizations.

HB 2115 proposes an important solution to align Judiciary contract rates for community-based organizations with the true costs of delivering services to meet continuously growing demands and escalating operational expenses. By recognizing the cost of these services, HB 2115 will help preserve service quality, stabilize the workforce, and ensure children and families continue to receive timely, effective care.

More attention is necessary to address the pressures being felt by our community-based organizations as they are not receiving the appropriate resources for the services they provide. If they are unable to sustain their services, the threat of them walking away from a contract is too big of a risk to consider. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please pass HB 2115.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2115
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
February 3, 2026 9:00 A.M. State Capitol, Room 329**

Dear Chair Marten and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness,

Aloha. My name is Donalyn Dela Cruz, and I write in **strong support of HB 2115**.

As a Board Member of Child & Family Service (CFS), I help ensure the organization can continue providing safe, effective services. However, rising costs have outpaced DHS contract rates, creating a growing gap that threatens both sustainability and service quality.

Despite these pressures, demand for services continues to intensify statewide.

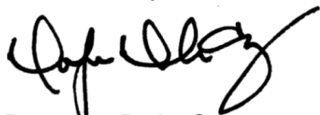
This fiscal year, CFS has already supported more than 3,200 children and families, and in a typical year serves over 7,000 through DHS-contracted programs. Over the past four years, service volume has grown by 30%, with continued increases this year. Last year alone, CFS reached 117,000 families statewide, underscoring both the scale of need and CFS's essential role in Hawai'i's safety-net system.

As a board member, I see the results. Nearly 90% of children and families served each year make positive progress, and I have heard firsthand how CFS services help families regain stability and move forward.

HB 2115 is a necessary step toward ensuring organizations like CFS can continue meeting the State's expectations without eroding the services families depend on. Aligning contract rates with true costs helps protect service quality, stabilize the workforce, and ensure continuity of care across Hawai'i.

On behalf of the Board of Child & Family Service, I respectfully urge your support for HB 2115. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony.

Respectfully,



Donalyn Dela Cruz