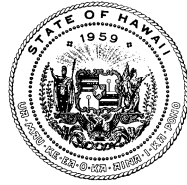


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 116/HR 108
REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND STATEWIDE OFFICE ON
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED, PLACE-BASED
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS
RESPONSE NEEDS ON THE WAIANAE COAST.

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE IKAIKA OLDS, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date and Time: April 1, 2026, Time 10:00 a.m. Location: Room 329 & Video

1 The Department of Health (Department) supports this resolution and appreciates the
2 Legislature's efforts to better address behavioral health needs on the Waianae Coast.

3 The Department believes that treating and assisting people where they are is often the
4 most effective. It allows them to stay in their community, close to their social structure and in
5 an environment where they are comfortable. The Department also recognizes that this
6 approach is not always economically feasible. Therefore, the Department appreciates the
7 approach in this resolution, which seeks to consider data-driven needs, economic feasibility and
8 budgetary constraints.

9 Behavioral health and substance use disorders are unique to the individual and can be
10 responded to in a multitude of ways depending on the individual's need. This resolution
11 addresses that by including different considerations in the feasibility analysis.

12 While the Department is not named in this resolution, it remains committed to working
13 with the City and County of Honolulu and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing
14 Solutions for the data under the control of the Department needed to complete the required
15 plan.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

LATE

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

March 31, 2026

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

FROM: Jun D. Yang, Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HCR 116/HR 108 – REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED, PLACE-BASED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE NEEDS ON THE WAIANAЕ COAST.**

Hearing: April 1, 2026, Time 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

AGENCY'S POSITION: The Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) supports this resolution and offers comments. This resolution urges the City and County of Honolulu (City) and SOHHS to develop a coordinated, place-based strategic action plan to address behavioral health and homelessness response needs on the Wai'anae coast. The coordinating agencies are requested to engage with community-based service providers serving the Wai'anae Coast region when developing this strategic action plan, and are requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.

SOHHS welcomes the opportunity to continue to partner with county and community-based organizations to identify resource gaps and opportunities for increased investment in homeless services and housing programs, including resources focused on individuals with

behavioral health needs. SOHHS, the City, and other State and community partners work together to coordinate responses to homelessness on O'ahu, including low-barrier shelter, behavioral health stabilization resources, and long-term housing programs. We welcome the opportunity to continue to collaborate with the City on specialized interventions that will break the cycle of homelessness for people with behavioral health needs.

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



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 1, 2026

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HCR116 – Requesting the City and County of Honolulu and Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to Develop a Coordinated, Place-Based Strategic Action Plan to Address Behavioral Health and Homelessness Response Needs on the Waianae Coast.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **strongly supports HCR116**, which requests the City and County of Honolulu and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to develop a coordinated, place-based strategic action plan to address behavioral health and homelessness response needs on the Waianae Coast.

AILH is a Center for Independent Living serving people with all types of disabilities statewide. Our mission is to support disabled people to live independently in their communities, including those who are unhoused or experiencing behavioral health challenges.

Disability, Homelessness, and Waianae

According to the 2024 Point in Time Count, there have been significant increases in both the total number of houseless individuals and the number of unsheltered individuals on Oahu since 2023. Of the 4,494 people experiencing homelessness on Oahu on January 22, 2024, the largest concentration was on the Waianae Coast, and over half of those individuals were classified as chronically homeless. Chronic homelessness is highly



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correlated with disability, including serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and physical and cognitive disabilities.

Despite this concentration, the resolution notes there are only six shelter programs operating in the Waianae Coast region. This mismatch between need and available resources creates serious risk for disabled residents who lack access to housing, crisis services, and ongoing behavioral health supports.

Independent Living Lens on the Strategic Action Plan

AILH strongly supports the call for a unified, intergovernmental, place-based plan with shared priorities and improved coordination. The requested plan elements—analysis of behavioral health emergency calls and response times, evaluation of ER utilization for psychiatric crises, assessment of crisis stabilization bed capacity, identification of high-need zones and service gaps, and evaluation of coordination among outreach, providers, and first responders—are all critical to building a disability-responsive system on the Waianae Coast.

We also support the feasibility analysis of a regional crisis stabilization or triage center, including potential sites, partnership models, and funding sources, as well as identification of needed statutory or budgetary changes. From an Independent Living perspective, crisis responses must prioritize voluntary, community-based supports, trauma-informed practice, cultural safety for Native Hawaiian communities, and clear pathways to permanent, accessible housing—not just short-term crisis beds.

Centering Disability and Community Voice

The resolution requests engagement with community-based service providers in developing the plan. AILH respectfully recommends that this engagement explicitly include:

- Organizations led by people with lived experience of a disability and houselessness; and



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- Providers serving Native Hawaiian communities on the Waianae Coast.

Incorporating Independent Living and Native Hawaiian perspectives will help ensure the plan supports true community integration, not increased criminalization or institutionalization of disabled people who are houseless.

Recommendation

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii strongly supports HCR116 and urges this Committee to pass the resolution. We respectfully request that the implementing agencies explicitly include disability-led and houseless-led organizations in the planning process so that the resulting strategy advances housing, health, and self-determination for disabled people on the Waianae Coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director

HR-108

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 3:27:28 PM
Testimony for HSH on 4/1/2026 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your time. In regards to HCR116, and companion bill HR108, I encourage you to support this bill. I have personally seen how the process of moving thru the system is challenging for an individual who becomes homeless and jobless and dealing with grief-death of teen child- and how overwhelming this system can be since their is no definite path or road process to receive support to walk the individual thru it. No one returns phone calls! I'm alarmed. Theres no easy way to find support. I'd like to see this improve so we can help these individuals at moment of impact- not days or weeks later as they navigate the messiness of life, their mental health, housing and food. Vote yes please.

mahalo!