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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

March 2, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2560 HD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill to utilize federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to support families of students experiencing homelessness and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests clarification and suggests amendments. DHS defers to the Department of Education (DOE) regarding DHS retaining records that may include student information for this proposed service; assistance provided to eligible students that may conflict with or duplicate any assistance funded and provided through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and any operational resource needs.

This bill proposes establishing a two-year pilot program within DHS, supported by federal TANF funds, to provide short-term, temporary financial stabilization assistance to eligible students and their families experiencing homelessness, up to \$500 per eligible student per school year.

For the committee's information, pursuant to section 401, Title IV-A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601], states may utilize federal TANF funds for benefits, programs, and services that meet one of the following purposes:

- (1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- (4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This bill proposes to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance, including food, clothing, transportation, and other short-term needs. The assistance payments may qualify under TANF Purpose 1; therefore, "means testing" must be an eligibility criteria to receive federal TANF-funded payments.

Additionally, in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1611(a), an individual who is not a qualified immigrant is not eligible for any federal public benefit as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1611(c). Therefore, students and their family members who may receive assistance through the proposed pilot program must be either U.S. citizens, qualified immigrants according to the terms described in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.], or qualified individuals lawfully residing in the U.S. in accordance with the Compacts of Free Association. If the pilot program intends to provide assistance regardless of a student's or family member's citizenship status, then 100% state funds will be required to serve students and their families who do not qualify for federal TANF.

For the committee's information, the TANF program provides monthly cash benefits (further described below) to eligible families and administers the First-To-Work (FTW) program for recipient families to gain financial independence through vocational training and educational support, employment-related services, and supportive service payments such as child care subsidies, transportation assistance (e.g., reimbursement for mileage and parking fees, monthly bus passes, etc.), and education and work-related expenses.

DHS also administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a federally funded program that provides food and nutrition assistance to qualifying low-income and needy households.

As drafted, the temporary financial stabilization assistance proposed through this pilot program may duplicate the existing SNAP benefits, financial assistance, and supportive service payments that DHS already provides through the SNAP, TANF, and FTW programs. To avoid duplicate payments, DHS and DOE will need to coordinate and establish information-sharing agreements, among other measures, which will require appropriation.

The Department respectfully requests deleting the language in Section 2, subsection (f), page 3, line 4, “in a flexible spending model,” and page 3, line 14, “flexible spending model and,” because it is unclear whether the proposed flexible spending model and federal TANF fund expenditures will comply with the requirements and provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The Department respectfully proposes the following amendments to delete language in Section 2, subsection (f), page 3, lines 4 and 14:

(f) Funds distributed under the pilot program shall be used ~~[in a flexible spending model]~~ to address immediate needs necessary to stabilize the family, including but not limited to:

...

provided that ~~[the flexible spending model and]~~ any expenditures comply with the requirements under title 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200.

DHS requests clarification of Section 2, subsection (f), paragraph (4), (page 3, lines 10-11), which includes “other short-term necessities.” As drafted, it is unclear whether “other short-term necessities” constitute payments clarified as “assistance” [45 C.F.R. 260.31]. There are additional federal requirements when a family receives federal TANF-funded “assistance”, such as cooperating to establish paternity and child support payments if there is an absent parent of a minor dependent child; mandatory participation with the FTW program; limitation of sixty months of financial assistance payments in a family’s lifetime; and administrative reporting requirements. Furthermore, federal TANF-funded “assistance” may be countable as income for other means-tested programs such as SNAP, TANF, and child care subsidies.

For payments to be considered “non-assistance,” they must be non-recurrent, short-term, and not extend beyond four months; the payments may only be provided to address a specific crisis situation or episode of need and are not intended to meet the family’s recurrent

or ongoing needs. As drafted, the Department is unable to determine whether the proposed payments meet the criteria of “non-assistance” because this bill does not define “other short-term necessities”.

The Department also requests clarification regarding Section 2, subsection (g), which states that purchases for families and students shall be made directly by the appropriate complex area community homeless concerns liaison. The bill does not define or describe how purchases will be made for families or students; therefore, DHS is unable to determine whether the purchases will comply with the requirements and provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

For the committee’s consideration, DHS currently does not have the capacity to administer a new pilot program statewide; monitor the program to ensure the pilot program adheres to the applicable federal regulations and state laws; screen all third-party payees to ensure they are compliant with applicable federal, state, and county laws including with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Internal Revenue Services or department of taxation; nor the resources to maintain the records of eligible students and their families.

The Department relies on partnerships with experienced community-based service providers through contracts to administer statewide initiatives such as the Hawaii Relief Program. The Hawaii Relief Program is administered by two contracted service providers who accept applications from families who are in need of housing or utility assistance due to a crisis or an episode of financial need; determines eligibility of applicant families; and ensures third-party payees are compliant with applicable federal, state, and county laws, before any housing and utility assistance payments are issued to the third-party payees on behalf of eligible families. A similar approach would need to be considered to implement the proposed project.

The Department respectfully proposes the following underlined and stricken amendments:

SECTION 3. The Department of Human Services may contract with a third-party administrator to operate the temporary financial stabilization assistance two-year pilot program.

SECTION ~~3~~ 4. The department of human services, in consultation with the department of education, may adopt rules

March 1, 2026

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pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as necessary to implement this Act.

The Department also proposes that the cease date of June 30, 2028, be extended to June 30, 2030, to allow for DHS and DOE to plan and coordinate their efforts; conduct procurement and develop awarded contract(s); and implement the two-year pilot program.

The Department's Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, which administers the TANF program, will continue to engage with the DOE to assess resource needs to implement the proposed pilot program and will seek policy clarification from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, regarding the bill's proposed use of federal TANF funds.

Should this measure continue to proceed, DHS may require general funds to cost-allocate services provided to non-TANF eligible students and families through contracting with service providers to administer the pilot program on behalf of the Department, and at a minimum, one (1) full-time equivalent program specialist position that would require a matching general fund appropriation to oversee the statewide coordination of services; develop the administrative rules; conduct the procurement and develop and maintain the contract(s); monitor the performances of the service provider(s); and provide technical assistance as it relates to the expenditures of federal TANF funds. The Department will continue to update its testimony with the resource needs for implementation as this bill progresses.

DHS respectfully requests that the proposed pilot program and any appropriation not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

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



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

Date: 03/03/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: FIN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2560, HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a two-year-pilot program within the Department of Human Services to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance to families with students identified as experiencing homelessness. Funds the program through the Department of Human Services using allowable Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds. Requires Department of Education Complex Area Community Homeless Concerns Liaison to make approved purchases. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB2560, HD1, and the Legislature's focus on addressing the financial instability that disrupts students' access to education when they experience homelessness. The Department recognizes that temporary financial stabilization can be a critical tool for reducing barriers to school attendance and supporting student well-being.

The Department respectfully notes that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federally authorized program under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and must be administered in accordance with federal law, federal regulations, and the State's approved TANF plan. The Department is not designated as the State's TANF agency and does not have independent federal authority to determine TANF eligibility, administer, or directly distribute TANF funds.

Accordingly, implementation of the measure as drafted may raise federal compliance concerns if the Department were required to administer or expend TANF funds outside of the established TANF framework.

The Department remains committed to supporting students experiencing homelessness and stands ready to collaborate on solutions.

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



Chair Todd
Vice Chair Takenouchi
House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
2:00 PM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2560 HD 2 RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Legislative Committee on Public Health is in **strong support** of **HB 2560**.

Youth homelessness remains a significant and urgent issue across Hawai‘i. According to Hale Kipa, more than 3,600 public school students (K-12) were identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2018-2019 school year. Of homeless youth identified, 297 were unsheltered, 777 were in shelters, 19 were in hotels or motels, and 2,510 were doubled up.¹ Although these figures are several years old, they reflect a crisis that has only been intensified by rising housing costs and economic instability.

More recent data confirms the ongoing need. In January 2026 alone, Partners in Care reported that 384 youth on O‘ahu were enrolled in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration

¹Hale Kipa. (2021). [National Homeless Youth Awareness Month Draws Attention to 2.5 million Youth Per Year Who Experience Homelessness](#).

Program. Since fall 2020, 1,646 youth on O‘ahu have enrolled in these programs.² These numbers represent only those connected to services on one island. Many more youth remain unstably housed, particularly on neighbor islands.

For example, while approximately 25 individuals are officially counted as homeless on Moloka‘i, this does not capture the significant population of “hidden homeless” youth and families who are chronically housing-insecure.³ Many young people are living in overcrowded homes, doubled up with extended family, or moving between temporary arrangements. This instability directly affects school attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being.

The consequences of youth homelessness extend far beyond housing. According to Hale Kipa, homeless youth face increased risks of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and vulnerability to trafficking. Without timely intervention, short-term crises can escalate into long-term educational and social disruption.

HB 2560 is not a long-term solution to youth homelessness, but it has the ability to provide critical and immediate relief. We particularly support allocating funds through the Department of Education and empowering complex area homeless concerns liaisons to directly purchase essential items for students in crisis. These small, timely interventions, such as food, clothing, or transportation, can prevent deeper displacement and help keep students connected to school while families work toward longer-term stability.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission respectfully urges the Committee to **pass HB 2560**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Hawai‘i State Youth Commission

hawaii-state-yc@gmail.com

²Partners in Care. (2026). [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. YHDP Dashboard.](#)

³Molokai Dispatch. (2023). [Progress on Solutions for the Unhoused.](#)

Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i

KAWAIILOA

March 3, 2026

House Committee on Finance
Hearing Time: 2:00PM
Location: House Conference Room 308
Re: HB2560 HD2, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i hui, we are writing in **strong support of HB2560 HD2, relating to homelessness**. This bill will establish a two-year pilot program within the Department of Human Services to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance to families with students identified as experiencing homelessness. The program will be funded through the Department of Human Services using allowable Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds. The bill will also require the Department of Education Complex Area Community Homeless Concerns Liaison to make approved purchases.

Homelessness continues to affect many communities across Hawai'i. It is especially harmful for families with children because they often face immediate and urgent financial needs that can compromise housing stability and the children's educational outcomes. The lack of a permanent, stable, and adequate residence directly disrupts homeless students' educational experience because they often face barriers and obstacles in areas of school, including enrollment, consistent attendance, academic success, and more, when their family must worry about securing a safe place to live and meeting their family's basic financial needs.

Thus, by creating a two-year pilot program that provides temporary financial stabilization assistance for homeless families with children in school, HB2168 HD2 gives students in this situation the opportunity to fully participate in school and thrive academically, rather than worrying about their family's housing or financial situation. DHS will provide funding to the DOE's Complex Area Community Homeless Concerns Liaisons to support the families experiencing homelessness or housing instability, with whom they will engage with to determine their eligibility for the program.

Addressing the financial needs of homeless families can prevent or reduce the harmful effects of unstable housing and financial instability on homeless youth in school. Homeless students can greatly benefit from the timely, flexible financial support this program provides because it gives them access to funds to access the basic necessities needed to survive. It is critical that these homeless families and their children in school receive the access and support they need to address their housing instability and financial deficits, because when these basic needs are met, students can focus more on school and remain engaged in their education.

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

1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 | (808) 447-1840

To: House Committee on Finance
Re: **HB 2560 HD2– Relating to Homelessness**
Hawai'i State Capitol room 308 & Via Videoconference
March 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! (HCAN), I am providing testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2560 HD2**. Which would establish a two-year pilot within the Department of Human Services to provide targeted, short-term financial stabilization assistance to families with students experiencing homelessness, using allowable federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. The bill allows DOE homeless concerns liaisons to directly purchase essential goods and services that remove immediate barriers to student stability and school attendance.

From a fiscal perspective, this measure represents a strategic and responsible investment. By leveraging existing federal TANF funds, the State can deliver timely assistance to families without creating an open-ended entitlement or ongoing General Fund obligation. The pilot structure allows the Legislature to evaluate effectiveness, outcomes, and cost-efficiency before considering expansion.

Student homelessness remains a significant and growing challenge across Hawai'i. When families lack stable housing, children are more likely to miss school, struggle academically, and experience long-term negative health and economic outcomes. The costs of inaction, including remedial education, health care expenditures, and future workforce impacts far exceed the modest investment proposed in this measure.

Importantly, HB 2560 HD2 does not provide direct cash assistance. Instead, funds are used for specific, allowable purchases such as food, clothing, transportation support, or other urgent needs that directly impact a student's ability to attend and succeed in school. This structure ensures accountability, compliance with federal requirements, and appropriate stewardship of public dollars.

By placing implementation authority with DOE homeless liaisons, the program ensures that assistance is administered by professionals who understand local community needs and can respond quickly when a family is in crisis. Timely intervention can prevent deeper destabilization, reduce strain on other state systems, and help keep children connected to their education.

HCAN respectfully urges the Committee on Finance to pass HB 2560 HD2. This bill represents a prudent, data-informed approach to supporting Hawai'i's most vulnerable keiki while maximizing the impact of federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Strong support of HB 2650 HD2**.

HB-2560-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:18:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Finance Committee members,

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) strongly supports HB 2560, HD2, which establishes a two-year pilot program within the Department of Human Services to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance, with TANF funds, to families with students identified as experiencing homelessness. HYSN strongly urges the finance committee to support this measure.

Mahalo,

Sonia Blackiston

HYSN Executive Director

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the House Finance Committee,
Committee: House Finance Committee (FIN)
RE: HB 2560, HD1 – Relating to Homelessness
Date: March 3, 2026
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308 – Via Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, my name is Leilani Chai, and I am testifying in strong support of HB 2560, HD1. I am a working mother and full-time student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am completing my field study on food and housing insecurity among students at UH West O'ahu.

There was also a time in my own life, as a single mother, when I faced housing insecurity, and it was absolutely terrifying. I moved from Hawai'i Island to O'ahu to start a new life and temporarily stayed with a family member who had offered us housing. When their circumstances changed, and we could no longer remain there, I suddenly found myself without shelter, with a newborn and a five-year-old. It is difficult to reflect on, but that experience is part of what makes this program so meaningful to me.

Through my field study, I have witnessed college-age youth struggling to meet their basic needs, including housing and food, while still striving to complete their education. Their determination is inspiring, but the obstacles they face are real and ongoing.

Children from families experiencing homelessness face significant challenges that affect their ability to attend school and focus on learning. When basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing are not met, it becomes much harder for them to focus on their education and simply be children. Without a stable home, even school registration and consistent attendance can be difficult.

I believe the two-year pilot program in HB 2560, HD1, can help families regain stability, secure employment, continue their education, and create safe environments for their children.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB 2560, HD1. Mahalo for your consideration and for supporting families across Hawai'i.

Leilani Chai

heavenlyflower808@yahoo.com

House District 42

Senate District 21

Letter in Support of HB2560

February 27, 2026

To: House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Strong Support for HB2560 HD1 – Financial Assistance Pilot for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Amato, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ryan K. Gomes, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I write to you today as a concerned private citizen in strong support of HB2560 HD1, which establishes a two-year pilot program to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance to families with children who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

The Crisis: Families One Paycheck Away from Homelessness

Hawai'i's housing crisis has pushed thousands of families to the brink. A single unexpected expense—a medical bill, a car repair, a lost paycheck—can mean the difference between staying housed and becoming homeless. For families with children, this instability is devastating. It disrupts education, traumatizes children, and creates a cascade of negative consequences that can last for generations.

Once a family loses housing, the costs to the state and to the family skyrocket. Emergency shelter, social services, healthcare, and the long-term impacts on children's development and education all come at a steep price. And yet, in many cases, a modest amount of short-term financial assistance—enough to cover a rent payment, a utility bill, or a security deposit—could have prevented the crisis entirely.

HB2560 HD1 recognizes this reality and takes a proactive, cost-effective approach: provide targeted financial assistance before families fall into homelessness, rather than scrambling to respond after the damage is done.

Why HB2560 HD1 is Critical

This bill addresses family homelessness through direct, immediate financial intervention:

- **Prevents homelessness before it happens** by providing short-term financial assistance to families at imminent risk, helping them cover rent, utilities, deposits, or other urgent costs that threaten their housing stability.

- **Stabilizes families with children** by ensuring that students can remain in their schools, maintain their friendships, and continue their education without the trauma and disruption of losing their homes.
- **Targets resources efficiently** by focusing on families with children, who are disproportionately affected by housing instability and who benefit most from early intervention.
- **Operates as a pilot program** with built-in evaluation and reporting requirements, allowing the Legislature to assess effectiveness and make data-driven decisions about future funding and expansion.
- **Coordinates with education systems** by locating the pilot within the Department of Education and aligning it with the state coordinator for education of homeless children and youth, ensuring that families with school-age children receive the support they need.

Who This Bill Benefits

HB2560 HD1 is designed to benefit the most vulnerable families in our state—those who are one crisis away from losing their homes and whose children's futures hang in the balance.

- **Families with children** gain access to emergency financial assistance that can prevent eviction, utility shutoffs, or the loss of housing due to short-term financial crises.
- **Students** benefit from housing stability, which is the foundation for educational success. Children who are not worried about where they will sleep at night are better able to focus on learning, attend school regularly, and build relationships with peers and teachers.
- **Schools and educators** benefit from reduced student transiency, lower enrollment disruptions, and the ability to provide consistent instruction to stable classrooms.
- **The state and taxpayers** benefit from a cost-effective intervention that prevents the far greater expenses associated with emergency shelter, social services, healthcare, and the long-term costs of childhood homelessness.

This is not a bill that benefits corporations, special interests, or bureaucracies. It is a direct investment in families and children who are struggling to survive in one of the most expensive housing markets in the nation.

The Evidence: Prevention Works

Research from across the country consistently shows that short-term financial assistance programs are highly effective at preventing homelessness and stabilizing families. Programs that provide one-time or short-term rental assistance, utility payments, or security deposits have been shown to:

- Prevent homelessness at a fraction of the cost of emergency shelter.
- Reduce the trauma and disruption experienced by children.
- Improve educational outcomes by maintaining school stability.

- Reduce the burden on social services and emergency systems.

HB2560 HD1 brings this evidence-based approach to Hawai‘i. By piloting the program for two years and requiring evaluation, the Legislature can gather data on what works in our unique housing market and make informed decisions about how to address family homelessness more effectively.

Addressing Concerns

Some may worry about the cost of the pilot program. But the cost of doing nothing is far greater. Emergency shelter for a family can cost thousands of dollars per month, and the long-term costs of childhood homelessness—in lost educational attainment, health impacts, and social services—are staggering.

By contrast, short-term financial assistance often costs a few hundred to a few thousand dollars per family and can prevent years of instability and hardship. This is not an expense—it is an investment that pays dividends in healthier, more stable families and better outcomes for children.

Others may worry about misuse of funds or whether families will become dependent on assistance. But HB2560 HD1 is designed as a temporary stabilization program, not long-term support. The goal is to help families weather a short-term crisis and regain stability, not to create ongoing dependency. Proper program design, oversight, and evaluation will ensure that funds are used effectively and that families receive the right level of support.

Conclusion

HB2560 HD1 is a necessary, compassionate, and evidence-based measure that addresses family homelessness through direct financial intervention. It recognizes that prevention is more effective and more humane than crisis response, and that investing in families with children today will save the state far greater costs tomorrow.

Families in Hawai‘i should not have to choose between paying rent and feeding their children. Children should not have to lose their homes, their schools, and their sense of security because of a short-term financial crisis. HB2560 HD1 ensures that when families face those impossible choices, the state is there to help them stay housed, stay stable, and stay together.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2560 HD1.

Mahalo nui for your commitment to the well-being of Hawai‘i's families and children, and for your leadership in addressing the homelessness crisis with compassion and evidence-based solutions.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Ryan K. Gomes
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Judith F. Clark

48-218 Kamehameha Highway

808-499-9966

Judithforceclark@gmail.com

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 3, 2026

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 2560 HD 2 Relating to Homelessness

As a community advocate, a homeless youth service provider for 25 years, and a person with lived experience of youth homelessness, I support HB 2560 HD 2.

Homeless students experience many challenges and barriers in obtaining educational services. Providing financial assistance for food, clothing, transportation, and other services will remove barriers to homeless students' ability to attend school

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH