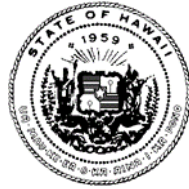


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 6, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

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 WAIANAE COAST.**

Hearing: April 8, 2026, Time 09:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 423 & 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.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KAIĀULU  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

222 NORTH SCHOOL STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 768-7762 • FAX: (808) 768-7792 • WEBSITE: [honolulu.gov/dcs](http://honolulu.gov/dcs)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



ANTON C. KRUCKY  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O  
  
AEDWARD LOS BANOS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

**TESTIMONY OF ANTON C. KRUCKY  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 09:30 AM  
Conference RM 423 and Via Videoconference**

TO: Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair, Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

RE: SUPPORT OF HCR 116/HR108

The City and County of Honolulu (City) strongly supports HCR 116/HR 108, which requests the development of a coordinated, place-based strategic action plan to address behavioral health and homelessness response needs on the Waianae Coast.

The Waianae Coast continues to experience high rates of unsheltered homelessness, coupled with significant behavioral health challenges, including untreated mental illness and substance use disorders. These complex and overlapping issues require a coordinated, multi-agency response that is tailored to the unique needs, cultural context, and service gaps within the region.

The City has made substantial investments in homelessness outreach, emergency shelter, housing placement, and crisis response services. The scale and complexity of needs on the Waianae Coast underscore the necessity of stronger alignment across state and county systems—particularly in behavioral health services, which are primarily administered at the state level. A unified, place-based strategy will help ensure that resources are deployed effectively, services are not duplicated, and individuals receive timely, appropriate care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong **support** of this measure.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Apr 8, 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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Chair / Sec

Valerie Yamada

##### Vice Chair

Zora Shove

##### Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

##### Member

Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
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. From a cross-disability Independent Living perspective, housing, behavioral health, and crisis response are disability issues, because many people experiencing chronic homelessness live with physical, cognitive, or psychiatric disabilities.

The Waianae Coast has the highest concentration of houseless individuals on Oahu, yet only a limited number of shelter programs operate in the region, leaving significant gaps in crisis services, stabilization options, and ongoing supports. A unified, intergovernmental plan that analyzes emergency call patterns, ER utilization for psychiatric crises, crisis bed capacity, and coordination among outreach teams, providers, and first responders is essential to build a disability-responsive system.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

### 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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair / Sec**  
Valerie Yamada

**Vice Chair**  
Zora Shove

**Treasurer**  
Jonathan Yap

**Member**  
Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

From an Independent Living lens, the strategic action plan should prioritize voluntary, community-based supports; trauma-informed and culturally grounded services for Native Hawaiian communities; and clear pathways to permanent, affordable, and accessible housing rather than relying on criminalization or institutional settings. Including disability-led and houseless-led organizations in the planning process will help ensure that the plan advances self-determination, safety, and true community integration for disabled people on the Waianae Coast.

AILH respectfully urges the Committee to pass HCR116.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

April 8, 2026

**To:** COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 423  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Hearing: Wednesday, April 8th 2026 at 9:30AM

**RE: Support for House Concurrent Resolution 118 / House Resolution 108**

Aloha Chair Ilagan and Vice Chair Hussey, and fellow Representatives and Committee members, I am writing to you in **strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 118** which seeks to request 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.

As a Social Worker, and resident of O’ahu, I can tell you from a firsthand experience in both a personal and professional setting that houselessness in Hawai’i needs to be addressed. The concentration of individuals living on the streets is unacceptable and more needs to be done to meet the needs of the demographics who are most at risk of and already experiencing houselessness.

As someone who is here to help and advocate for at-risk communities, I would recommend two small suggestions to this resolution. **1.** Changing the word “homeless” or any iteration of it to “houseless” as this terminology better aligns with cultural values, particularly the understanding of ‘āina (land) as a source of belonging and the central importance of ‘ohana (family) and

community across the islands which indicates that even those without a house, still in fact have a home. **2.** Put more emphasis on Native Hawaiian cultural and healing practices when addressing the mental and behavioral health of the houseless population on the Waianae Coast. Some reports have indicated that up to 77% of the houseless population identify as Native Hawaiian (Subica, 2023). With the reasoning of this disparity tracing far back throughout Hawai'i's history. Engaging in a community-centered, collaborative approach could signal a broader shift toward empowering Native Hawaiian voices in shaping solutions to challenges that directly affect their communities, rather than continuing a pattern of externally imposed interventions that have historically proven inadequate or harmful.

With the right implementation this resolution could have a very positive impact on the houseless people of the Waianae Coast, and lead to further implementation all across O'ahu and eventually the Pae 'āina (Hawaiian Islands) as a whole. **The vast majority of social workers in Hawai'i support and strongly urge the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 118.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

## References

Subica, A. M., Sampaga, D. S., Ortiz-Misiaszek, J., Martin, T .K. K., Okamoto S. K.  
(2023) The Mental Health, Substance Use, Physical Health, and Mental Health  
Treatment Need of Community Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Hawai'i.  
*Community Ment Health J.* 59(5), 1021-1026.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9995740/>