

## STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

The undersigned organizations are proud to join in support of sustained annual commitments by the Legislature toward truly affordable housing and core homelessness services.

Almost five decades ago, the state of Hawaii declared a “housing crisis” that has continued to worsen as housing costs outpace wage increases. More families are forced to choose between having a place to live and having life’s basic necessities, including food. Groups such as Partners in Care (PIC), Bridging the Gap (BTG), and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) are working together to turn around this housing and homelessness crisis, but our efforts alone cannot solve this problem.

Last session, the Hawaii Legislature made a bold and unprecedented commitment of \$200 million for truly affordable housing and \$50 million for resources to address homelessness – nearly seven times the amounts committed from the year before. This level of investment is necessary to make significant progress in ending this crisis.

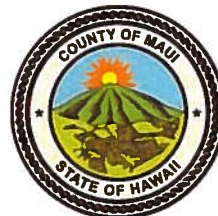
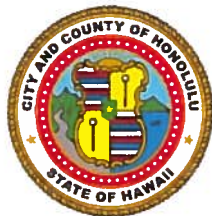
With that in mind, we the undersigned support:

- Sustained annual commitments for truly affordable housing, including targeted housing for the chronically homeless;
- Sustained annual commitments for core homelessness services that work (such as Housing First) to ensure their long-term viability and success;
- Funding to test new programs that fill gaps in existing services, such as a program to help kupuna facing eviction;
- Changes to mental health laws, ensuring that people incapacitated by mental illness and suffering on the streets are connected with the help they need.

Programs to address affordable housing and homelessness need sufficient, long-term funding to truly make a difference. Too many Hawaii residents are teetering on the brink of homelessness because there is not enough affordable housing, and core homelessness programs such as Housing First have proved their value and effectiveness. We urge the Legislature to explore options to make such sustained funding possible for housing and homelessness.



**PARTNERS IN CARE**  
OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE



## SUPPORTERS OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Connie Mitchell</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Executive Chair</u>	<u>Institute for Human Services (IHS)</u> <u>Partners in Care</u>
<u>Brandee Menino</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Chair</u>	<u>Hope Services Hawaii</u> <u>Bridging the Gap</u>
<u>Scott Morishige</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Hawaii Interagency Council on</u> <u>Homelessness (HICH)</u>
<u>Marc Alexander</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>City &amp; County Office of Housing</u>
<u>Sharon Hirota</u>	<u>Hawaii County Homeless</u> <u>Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Hawaii</u>
<u>Susan Kim</u>	<u>Governor's Representative</u>	<u>Governor's Office, West Hawaii</u>
<u>David Nakama</u>	<u>Maui County Homeless</u> <u>Program Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Maui</u>
<u>Sharon Graham</u>	<u>Homeless Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Kauai</u>
<u>Bruce Anderson</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii State Department of Health</u>
<u>Sherry Menor-McNamara</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii</u>
<u>Norm Baker</u>	<u>Chief Operating Officer</u>	<u>Aloha United Way</u>
<u>Tina Andrade</u>	<u>V.P. - Mission Integration</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Phil Acosta</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>ALEA Bridge</u>
<u>Mais. Jeff and Eloisa Martin</u>	<u>Divisional Leaders</u>	<u>The Salvation Army</u> <u>Hawaiian &amp; Pacific Islands</u>
<u>Heather Lusk</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Co-Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Health &amp; Harm</u> <u>Reduction Center</u> <u>Hep Free Hawaii</u>
<u>Jon Berliner</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Gregory House Programs</u>
<u>Samantha Church</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Family Promise of Hawaii</u>
<u>Gavin Thornton</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Appleseed Center</u>
<u>Judith Clark</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Youth Services Network</u>

## SUPPORTERS OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Jill Omori</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project</u>
<u>Roy Katsuda</u>	<u>Executive Director Emeritus</u>	<u>Hale Mahaolu</u>
<u>Scotty Reis-Moniz</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kapili Like Hawai'i &amp; Waimanalo Youth Build</u>
<u>Brent Kakesako</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Alliance for Community- Based Economic Development (HACBED)</u>
<u>Steve Lohse</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)</u>
<u>Michael Robinson</u>	<u>Vice President, Government Relations &amp; Community Affairs</u>	<u>Hawai'i Pacific Health</u>
<u>Jeff Gilbreath</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaiian Community Assets</u>
<u>Carl Bergquist</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii</u>
<u>Eva Andrade</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Catholic Conference</u>
<u>Lynette L. Mau</u>	<u></u>	<u>Mental Health Task Force (MHTF)</u>
<u>Jennifer Ito</u>	<u>Physician</u>	<u>Jennifer Ito M.D. LLC</u>
<u>Kat Brady</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Community Alliance on Prisons</u>
<u>Trisha Kajimura</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Mental Health America of Hawaii</u>
<u>Courtney Mrowczynski</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Hawaii Justice Coalition</u>
<u>Ryan Kusumoto</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Parents and Children Together (PACT)</u>
<u>Laurie Tochiki</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>EPIC 'Ohana Inc.</u>
<u>Andy Mounthongdy</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui</u>
<u>Elizabeth Valentin</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawai'i</u>

## SUPPORTERS OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Maude Cumming</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Family Life Center Inc.</u>
<u>Jeff Stone</u>	<u>CEO and President</u>	<u>The Resort Group</u>
<u>Ken Kawamoto</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Jayken Inc.</u>
<u>Thelma Akita-Kealoha</u>	<u>Maui Community Director</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Toni Symons</u>	<u>Program Director for Social Services</u>	<u>Hawaii Affordable Properties at Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini</u>
<u>Terri Hollowell</u>	<u>Director of Programming</u>	<u>Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, Kona Chapter</u>
<u>Rita Palma</u>	<u>Principal Officer</u>	<u>Hawaii Island Home for Recovery Inc. (HIHR)</u>
<u>Alysa Lavoie</u>	<u>Case Manager</u>	<u>West Hawaii Community Health Center</u>
<u>Heidi Teraoka</u>	<u></u>	<u>Neighborhood Place of Kona</u>
<u>David Deges</u>	<u></u>	<u>Neighbor Island Housing Program</u>
<u>Kim Krell</u>	<u>Quality Assurance Manager</u>	<u>Big Island Substance Abuse Council</u>
<u>Rena Mathson</u>	<u>Director of Operations</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawaii</u>
<u>Eric Mathson</u>	<u>Mobile Shower Unit Manager</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawaii</u>
<u>LaVerne Tolmie</u>	<u>Faith-Based Representative</u>	<u>Interfaith Communities in Action (ICIA)</u>
<u>Paul Normann</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Neighborhood Place of Puna</u>
<u>Shirley David</u>	<u>Hawaii Island Advisory Board Chair</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Christina Basham</u>	<u>Program Director</u>	<u>Child &amp; Family Service</u>
<u>Erika Empey</u>	<u></u>	<u>Child &amp; Family Service</u>
<u>Patrick Hurney</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Habitat for Humanity, Hawaii Island</u>

# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu's Continuum of Care for Homelessness

### 2019 Legislative Priorities

#### **SB 471, & 2 budget bills: SB 474, HB 1554**

**Add \$15.7 million to the base budget to provide a stable and secure funding source for proven-effective homelessness programs.** (\$14 M to DHS for homeless programs; \$200,000 to DOH for LEAD (neighbor islands); \$1.5 M to HPHA for Long Term Rental Assistance for Kupuna)

In 2018, the legislature appropriated \$30 million for Ohana Zones and an additional \$13.5 million for the proven-effective programs below. For 2019, Partners in Care is requesting that \$14.2 million be placed into the base-budget to provide funding stability for these necessary, core anti-homelessness programs.

**Outreach** – connects people experiencing homelessness with the resources they need to escape it.

**Rapid Rehousing** – helps individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing, rental stipends, assistance in finding housing, and case management services.

**Housing First** – provides housing and wrap around services to Hawai'i's chronically homeless population—people who typically consume high levels of costly emergency services—generating a net savings of \$28,000 per client per year.

**Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)** – grants police officers the discretion to redirect low-level offenders to case managers rather than arresting them, breaking the ineffective and expensive revolving cycle of arrest, incarceration, release, and back to addiction and the streets. (Department of Health (DOH) program)

**Family Assessment Centers** – quickly connect homeless families with critical resources (in its first year, the Kakaako FAC housed 91% or 54 of the homeless families it served within 81 days, with 100% of those families remaining housed).

**Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI)** – provides a one-time cash infusion for people on the cusp of homelessness, credited as playing a significant role in a 25% reduction in evictions on Oahu in 2017.

#### **Appropriate \$1.5 million for a new pilot programs to fill a critical service gaps.**

**Long-Term Rental Assistance for Kupuna (\$1.5m)** – provides rental assistance of up to \$1,000 per month, so kupuna on fixed-incomes who are unable to cope with increasing rents pay 50% of their income toward rent. **(Stand-Alone: SB 1031)**

#### **HB 1312**

#### **Appropriate \$200 million each year of the biennium, for low-income housing, with \$75 million going toward Permanent Supportive Housing.**

The 2018 legislature boldly appropriated \$200 million for low-income housing, which must become a new baseline if we are going to gain ground on the housing crisis.

Seventy-four percent of housing demand is for Hawai'i households making under \$75,000 a year. Investing \$200 million per year in the Rental Housing Revolving Fund will help build the housing Hawai'i's residents need.

It costs significantly less to provide people experiencing chronic homelessness with permanent housing and treatment than it does to treat them on the street. **By investing \$75 million a year for ten years, we can housing all 1,700 people experiencing chronic homelessness in Hawai'i while saving over \$2 billion in medical and other costs.**

#### **SB 567; SB 1051; SB 1124; SB 1464; SB 1465**

#### **Improve the Assisted Community Treatment Act to better assist people with severe mental illness.**

Some people experiencing psychosis are unable to make informed decisions regarding treatment, unresponsive to homelessness interventions, cycling in and out of hospitals and jails, and posing a threat to their own health. PIC supports changes that will make the 2013 Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) Act more effective by, for example, creating a team of experienced professionals to handle ACT cases.

## ISLAND VOICES

# Major investment needed for housing

By Connie Mitchell  
and Brandee Menino

**A** place to call home. A place from which family and community can grow and thrive. For many Hawaii households, a decent, affordable place to live is out of reach. The strength and health of Hawaii's people and communities depend on all of us coming together to turn around a problem that's been growing for decades.

In 1970, the state of Hawaii declared a "housing crisis" here. Year after year it's gotten worse. Increases in housing costs have outpaced increases in wages. More and more families are unable to afford housing and still have enough left for food and basic necessities.

Turning around a housing and homelessness crisis that's been growing for 50 years will be difficult, but not impossible. It will require coming together around a shared vision, taking bold action, and using data-driven approaches to efficiently use resources. It will take persistence, commitment and time.

Years ago, a family facing homelessness would arrive at service provider's door and receive whatever the provider had to offer whether or not it was the best suited service for the situation. Or the family might be sent away with only a list of other providers and a prayer that one of them could help.

Today, regardless of which provider's door they knock on, families are assessed and matched with the services and providers that can best address their particular situation. This more-connected, efficient and effective system is a result of the work of Partners in Care (PIC), Bridging the Gap (BTG) and the Hawaii Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (HICH) — groups that consists of nearly 100 homelessness stakehold-



Connie Mitchell, left, chairs Partners in Care (Oahu); Brandee Menino chairs Bridging the Gap (Hawaii island, Maui and Kauai).

ers including service providers; health care organizations; federal, state, and county government leaders; and business leaders.

Efficiency is critical, but even the most efficient system cannot address a problem of this magnitude without sufficient resources. Last year, legislators made a bold and unprecedented commitment of \$200 million for truly affordable housing and \$50 million for resources to address homelessness — nearly seven times the amounts committed from the year before.

To turn around a problem that's been growing for 50 years, this level of investment needs to become the

new normal. Recognizing this, PIC and BTG have adopted a comprehensive proposal to address homelessness, also supported by HICH:

>> Sustained annual commitments for truly affordable housing, including targeted housing for the chronic homelessness. We estimate, for example, that annual commitments of \$200 million, including \$75 million toward chronic homelessness, would save the state more than \$2 billion over 10 years, primarily due to reduced medical and related emergency services costs.

>> Sustained annual commitments for core homelessness services that work — such as Housing First — but which have previously been funded on a year-to-year basis, hindering the long-term planning necessary to efficiently run programs; historically stable funding for other core services such as temporary housing needs to remain in place.

>> Funding to test new programs that would fill gaps in existing services, such as a program for kupuna facing eviction because their fixed incomes haven't increased with rapidly rising rents.

>> Changes to mental health laws to ensure that people incapacitated by mental illness and suffering on the streets are connected with the help they need.

Hawaii's housing and homelessness problem has grown to the point that it threatens not only those living in homelessness or teetering on its brink; it affects us all. By coming together around a shared vision and by seeking out the necessary resources, we are gaining ground on addressing homelessness.

We hope more of our community will join us — share your knowledge, skills and resources — in refining the vision and improving our systems so our communities have a stable foundation on which to build and thrive.

