

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)

MS Teams Virtual Meeting and Teleconference

Monday, Dec. 21, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Mr. Joseph Campos for	Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Ms. JoAnn Vindinhar for	Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Mr. Tommy Johnson for	Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD)
Mr. Dean Minakami for	Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
Ms. Cynthia Rezentes for	Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
Mx Jen Jenkins for	Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Mr. Bruce Oliveira for	Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD)
Ms. Melissa Lewis for	Attorney General
Ms. Toby Portner for	Director of the Department of Education (DOE)
Rep. Ryan Yamane for	Hawaii State House of Representatives
Sen. Joy San Buenaventura for	Hawaii State Senate
Ms. Lori Tsuhako for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Ms. Ashton Varner for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Sharon Hirota for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Mr. Brian Johnson	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning & Development
Mr. Hakim Ousansafi	Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii
Ms. Laura Thielen	Continuum of Care for the County of Honolulu
Ms. Makana Kamibayashi	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Ms. Maude Cumming	Continuum of Care for the County of Maui
Pastor Daniel Kaneshiro	Faith-Based Representative
<u>Absent:</u>	Department of Health (DOH); U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); Business Community Representative
<u>Staff:</u>	Mr. Justin Limasa, Homelessness Assistant; Mr. Jason Kasamoto, Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs; Ms. Emma Grochowsky, Homelessness Community Development Specialist; Ms. Angela Gabriel, MSW Practicum Student; Mr. Jonah Saribay, BSW Practicum Student; Ms. Lili Young, Deputy Attorney General
<u>Special Guests:</u>	None

- I. **Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll was taken and there was a quorum established with 21 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and thanked the Council and staff for their patience and flexibility. The Chair reviewed several general housekeeping items related to the virtual teleconference platform. Attendees were asked to keep their device on 'mute' unless speaking, and members were asked to notify staff when leaving the meeting. The Chair explained that voting will be conducted via a general voice vote unless otherwise specified, and members should vote verbally or using the chat feature.

The Chair also acknowledged the council's new members and changes in council membership

for the new year: DHS Deputy Director Joseph Campos, the new designee for DHS Chair Cathy Betts; Rep. Ryan Yamane (primary designee) and Rep. Adrian Tam (alternate designee) of the Hawaii State House of Representatives; Tommy Johnson, the new designee for new Department of Public Safety Director Max Otani; new OHA Chair Carmen Hulu Lindsey, but Jen Jenkins will remain the OHA designee; and new Hawaii Island Mayor Mitch Roth, but Sharon Hirota will continue as the designee.

Chair Morishige also acknowledged and thanked Marc Alexander, executive director of the City & County of Honolulu Office of Housing, who is attending his last meeting as a HICH member.

The Chair also shared that today is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. He also said that today is the 30th annual Homeless Persons Memorial Day and asked that the council observe a moment of silence in memory of homeless individuals who died in 2020.

Mr. Johnson's attendance was recognized at 10:17 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 22 out of 27 members present.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda for review and proposed moving Item VIII a. and b. – Updates from the Chair and council members, and Item VI a. — Presentation of federal, state and local funding to immediately follow Item IV – Public Testimony. The Chair's intent was to provide context for the day's conversation and provide time for discussion. Mr. Ouansafi moved and Ms. Tsuhako seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The Chair reminded members that the Sept. 21, 2020, meeting minutes were available electronically. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes and asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Mr. Campos moved and Mr. Alexander seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Seeing no additions or corrections at this time, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Public Testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. There was none.

- V. **General Announcements**

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: October / November / December 2020

The Chair shared the staff report for the period from October through December 2020 and noted that a copy of the full report is included in the meeting packet. The Chair provided updates from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness concerning housing assistance and the eviction moratorium as related to the \$900 billion pandemic relief plan:

- The CDC's eviction moratorium has been extended until Jan. 31, 2021. Note that Gov. David Ige's most recent emergency proclamation has extended Hawaii's eviction moratorium until Feb. 14, 2021.
- Eligible renters would be able to receive assistance with rent and utility payments, unpaid rent or utility bills that have accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic, and other housing expenses incurred due to the pandemic. A household may also receive up to 12 months of assistance, but may receive an additional three months of assistance if it is necessary to ensure that the household remain stably housed and funds are available. The Chair notes that the pandemic relief funds will be released through the Department of the Treasury and not through HUD.

- Renters can apply for assistance with entities that state and local grantees select to administer the program. Once a renter qualifies, the administering entity would send the payment directly to the landlord. However, the Chair notes that some Hawaii landlords have refused these payments, so if a landlord declines the assistance, a renter may instead receive a payment directly from the administering entity to make rental payments to their landlord themselves. Landlords can also apply for rental assistance, but must notify the tenant that assistance is being provided on their behalf and obtain the tenant's consent.
- Eligible households are defined as renter households who: (1) have a household income not more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI); (2) have one or more household members who can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and (3) have one or more household members who qualify for unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic. Assistance would be prioritized for renter households that do not exceed 50 percent of AMI as well as renter households who are currently unemployed and have been unemployed for 90 days. In determining household income, the administering entity must consider the household's income for 2020 or the household's monthly income at the time of application for assistance, which must be recertified every three months if the household is receiving ongoing rental assistance.
- The Department of Treasury will distribute funds to states and localities using the same formula used to distribute Coronavirus Relief Funds. Small states will receive a minimum of \$200 million in emergency rental assistance. Localities with populations over 200,000 people may request to receive their allocation of emergency rental assistance directly. Under the program, the District of Columbia is treated as a state. The Chair also notes that \$800 million would be set aside for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.
- Out of the \$900 billion, the Chair's understanding is that \$25 billion is set aside for rental assistance.

Chair Morishige also shared the progress of the four performance benchmarks used to evaluate the implementation of the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness and 10-year strategic plan to end homelessness:

- **Count:** 6,458 people
 - Overall statewide reductions between 2016 and 2019, and rate remains flat between 2019 and 2020
 - PIT Count data mirrors trends in other data sets
 - Increase in emergency shelter numbers and decline in transitional shelter numbers reflects trends in funding and policy
 - Analysis of Oahu unsheltered numbers indicates majority is short-term and self-resolves
 - Between 2019 and 2016, there was a 37 percent increase in statewide homelessness — an additional 2,139 people. We anticipate a similar gradual increase on a greater scale over the next several years
 - Numbers of “doubled-up” students in DOE data has increased nearly 40 percent between 2016 and 2020
 - Between July and December 2020, the number of adults behind on rent or mortgage who anticipate eviction or foreclosure in next two months increased from 14,596 (16.4%) to 45,994 (44.1%) — one of the highest rates nationally
- **Bed Capacity:** 3,744 beds
 - The Housing Inventory Count shows a dramatic increase in PSH and RR beds between 2017 and 2019. More than 200 percent increase in number of permanent housing beds
 - Also a recent increase in emergency shelter beds

- Does not include programs like the Provisional Outdoor Screening & Triage (POST) program that enable short-term stays
- Transitional shelter has steadily decreased
- Trends reflect change in federal, state and local funding and policy
- **Housing Placements:** As of October 2020, the statewide number is 55 percent
 - The rate of placements have remained high, despite the pandemic
 - In 2020, the rates of placement have been higher on the Neighbor Islands compared with Oahu
 - In general, service utilization in 2020 is about 14 percent less than 2019
- **Length of Stay:** 152 days, as of October 2020. Has fluctuated
 - It's a work in progress, and may be affected by limited housing inventory and housing resources

The Chair highlighted several additional updates from the Chair's Office, including the following:

- Continuing to focus on outreach efforts, especially for those on state lands. Using By-Name List for encampments on state land to track movement between state properties
- Circulating daily shelter vacancies to providers, but also to state agencies that manage land and state law enforcement so they know in real time where there are openings
- Working with Partners in Care to link outreach to mobile COVID-19 testing and flu shot distribution
- Link with behavioral health services for those with severe mental illness through DOH and integration with Hawaii CARES Line
- Focusing on community engagement and training to increase public awareness of homelessness and build capacity among providers and government partners. Some examples of this include the 2020 Statewide Homeless Awareness Virtual Conference, which was a collaboration among the GCH Office and the four counties, particularly the City & County of Honolulu; and a recent training with outreach partners to help security guards and private downtown businesses to better link with outreach.
- Continued implementation of Ohana Zone programs statewide, including updates on the POST, Kealaula at Pua Loke, Huliau (former Maui dorms) and Kukuiola Village. We now have programs in each county that have served 3,116 individuals as of Nov. 30, 2020, including 625 placed into permanent housing. Also, 432 new beds/units have been added and 358 beds have been preserved.
- Worked on development of draft 10-year plan for 2021-2031, which integrates feedback from efforts to implement current plan, as well as efforts from early Ohana Zone evaluation to build a housing-focused system. More details will be provided when the Permitted Interaction Group offers updates.

Pastor Kaneshiro's attendance was recognized at 10:43 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 23 out of 27 members present.

B. Written Reports from Council Members.

The following written updates are provided for the Council's consideration and review (the full write-ups for each representative will be provided):

- *Department of Human Services, Homeless Programs Office*
- *Department of Health*
- *Department of Labor & Industrial Relations*
- *Department of Public Safety*
- *Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism*
- *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands*
- *Department of Defense*
- *Office of Hawaiian Affairs*
- *Department of the Attorney General*
- *Department of Education*
- *Hawaii State House of Representatives*
- *Hawaii State Senate*
- *Hawaii Public Housing Authority*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *County of Kauai*
- *County of Maui*
- *City & County of Honolulu*
- *Continuum of Care for Oahu, Partners in Care*
- *Continuum of Care for Hawaii Island*
- *Continuum of Care for Maui*
- *Continuum of Care for Kauai*
- *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs*
- *Faith-based community*
- *Business community*

The Chair highlighted several notable updates from Council members:

- *Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism* – Updates on financing were provided for the Huliau, Kealaula (Pua Loke) and Kukuioia projects, as well as State Rent Relief & Housing Assistance.
- *Department of Defense* – Task Force Medical team continues to support the City's POST project at Keehi Lagoon, assisting with medical support and meal delivery. Partnership with City and HPD is expected to continue into 2021.
- *Office of Hawaiian Affairs* — Provided an update on its various grant programs. Further details will come during OHA's presentation later in the meeting.
- *County of Hawaii* – Mayor Mitch Roth took office on Dec. 7, 2020, and homeless coordinator Sharon Hirota will remain in that role, but her position was transferred to the Office of Housing & Community Development. The County provided updates on renovations to Keolahou Emergency Shelter & Assessment Center, and development work at Kukuioia. The County also gave updates on programs brought online to address COVID-19, and it is expected to try to extend these programs into 2021.

Ms. Hirota said that the County was able to add an additional \$1 million to the Rent & Mortgage Assistance Program, and that the contractor is trying to ensure payments by the end of the year.

- *County of Kauai* – Five County beach parks are currently permitting indefinite camping for people experiencing homelessness. However, the County informed individuals on Friday that Lydgate Park was at capacity and no new permits would be issued for that park. Also, the County has been conducting coordinated outreach through the Second Annual Kauai Housing Connect event, and the Kauai Police Department is partnering with Kauai Community Alliance and Ms. Varner's office.

Ms. Varner added that the Kauai Housing Connect took place on Nov. 16, 17 and 20, with a break on Nov. 18-19 for the Statewide Homeless Awareness Virtual Conference. Households at Kealaula have also begun getting social services through Women in Need, and two households at Kealaula have been able to reunite with their children.

- *County of Maui* – the County has been working to improve Coordinated Entry System (CES) efficiency. Compassionate Responses have been suspended since February because of COVID-19 and CDC guidelines. The County's Wahi Hoomalu O Wailuku pallet shelter program has been operating since May, but is expected to close in March 2021. Family Life Center took over operations in November and helped nine individuals get into permanent housing.

Ms. Tsuhako added that the County is starting to put together homeless services for Molokai, and is working to extend services in a culturally and socially acceptable manner.

- *City & County of Honolulu* – Mr. Alexander shared highlights of the Mayor's Challenge and the POST program. He added that uploads of all presentations and videos from the Statewide Homeless Veterans Conference will be completed by Tuesday, Dec. 22, and expressed his gratitude to the conference's partners.

Mr. Alexander also shared the final Office of Housing report, which touches on the overall impact of programs, increase in housing production and progress in other areas. He credited the progress to the spirit of cooperation among various entities and the shared vision, as well as a strong focus on housing and supports.

Ms. Rezentes' attendance was recognized at 10:58 a.m. Quorum was updated to reflect 24 out of 27 members present.

Chair Morishige noted that he received an additional written report from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations with an update from its Office of Community Services: A grant-in-aid was awarded in 2019 to Dynamic Community Solutions for Puuhonua o Waianae, and OCS is working with grantee on required documents to process the grant.

VI. **Continuing Business**

a. **A presentation by GCH staff, including an overview of federal, state and local funding streams to address homelessness.**

Presentation by Emma Grochowsky, Community Development Specialist in the Office of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness.

The Chair introduced Emma Grochowsky, representing the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Ms. Grochowsky expressed gratitude to those who helped provide information for the fiscal map.

Ms. Grochowsky explained the purposes for creating the fiscal map: to compile system-level data across funding sources and program types; identify service gaps, overlap and areas of opportunity; and recognize time-limited funding streams and projected impact on system. The current focus is Core Homeless Programs, meaning programs that exclusively service those who meet HUD's definition of homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless; programs under contract and/or operating during FY21; recurring funding sources; and government funder-reported data as of Dec. 18, 2020.

Ms. Grochowsky shared that the data are from federal, state and county sources, and updates will be made as they become available. Ms. Grochowsky also reminded everyone that the numbers are tallied based on the source of the funding, not by the entity, department or nonprofit provider that is administering the funds.

Ms. Grochowsky shared the amounts of funding by county and noted that the Neighbor Islands and Statewide numbers are not cumulative, because they represent specific programs that serve these areas.

Ms. Grochowsky shared a color-coded graph that shows the core program types by funding source: Prevention/diversion, outreach, HMIS/CES, emergency shelter, transitional shelter, rapid rehousing/joint transitional housing and rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive services only. A key takeaway was that some programs are almost entirely dependent on one funding source — such as HMIS/CES (federal) and transitional shelter (state) — and changes to that funding could have a big impact, especially if there are no substitute funding sources.

Ms. Grochowsky also shared a Homeless System Map Overview, which was developed by Partners in Care and HUD technical assistance. Generally, people move from the left side (prevention and diversion or outreach), then are triaged for housing and other services, and then can be referred to a number of programs. Also, at any point, a person can exit the system if they can self-resolve. An overlay of the system map showed what funding is available for each program. Overall, Ms. Grochowsky noted that the overlay showed that a lot of funds go to

permanent supportive housing and permanent housing programs, as well as the emergency shelter system. Hopefully, we can also go back and map the number of beds or units and individuals served.

Ms. Grochowsky outlined the next steps, which include additional funding sources, details of the population served, trends over time and administration costs (funders and service providers). Especially with the influx of COVID-related federal funding coming in and because of strict deadlines on using this money, it'll be important for the administering entities to have the bandwidth to get these funds out to those who need them.

The Chair thanked Ms. Grochowsky. He emphasized for the council that a large chunk of the funding comes from the state and that's important, especially because we're in a period where general fund allocations will be affected greatly. The Chair also noted that a big chunk of funding goes to permanent housing, which reflects the goals of our system.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Ms. Grochowsky or any feedback on the fiscal mapping effort. Mr. Brackeen acknowledged the looming difficulties with state funding, but challenged providers to look for additional funding from outside sources, such as the philanthropic community, and for providers to tap into their creativity and relationships to tap into this assistance. The Chair thanked Mr. Brackeen and said that the next step is working with the philanthropic community to map some of those investments.

The Chair once again asked if there were further questions. There were none.

VII. **New Business**

a. **Discussion regarding efforts by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to address the needs of Native Hawaiians experiencing homelessness.**

Presentation by Ms. Cynthia Rezentes.

Ms. Rezentes updated the Council on the status of the Department's Rental Assistance Program (DRAP), administered by Aloha United Way. The program initially launched in May 2020 to assist Native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the homestead waitlist as of December 31, 2018 with temporary rental assistance. Participants continue to pay up to 30% of their monthly income toward rent, while the program assists with the balance.

Ms. Rezentes noted several key modifications to the program since its inception:

- Assistance is now also available to individuals with undivided or "paper" leases.
- Beginning in August 2020, assistance is available for up to 12 months.
- The phone number to call is 543-2219. Applicants are requested not to call Aloha United Way's 2-1-1 line for information about DRAP.

Presentation by Jenifer Jenkins.

Jenifer Jenkins provided an overview of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' current programs and partnerships related to COVID-19 assistance, economic impact, and health. Further details regarding OHA's grants were provided to members in the written updates to the Council.

OHA's 2021 legislative package includes a measure to all for the expungement of convictions related to homelessness, provided that the offenses are non-violent and the individual has completed all terms required by the Court. OHA believes this will increase housing and employment equity for Native Hawaiians, who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and the barriers created by criminal convictions related to homelessness.

Discussion and Questions.

Ms. Hirota asked whether DHHL's DRAP resources are available to the neighbor islands, and whether DHHL intends to pursue a Memorandum of Agreement with Bridging the Gap, similar to the Memorandum of Agreement with Partners in Care.

- Ms. Rezentes replied that DHHL has not pursued a Memorandum of Agreement with Bridging the Gap yet, but intends to do a similar analysis of beneficiaries who are enrolled in neighbor island homeless programs. Ms. Rezentes added that the DRAP assistance is statewide.

Mr. Alexander asked Jen Jenkins about OHA's position regarding community complaints about sidewalk obstruction and other homeless-related concerns, especially when resources, such as a 24-hour safe shelter option on Oahu, are available. Mr. Alexander further asked about how to appropriately balance public health and safety with efforts to reduce barriers for people experiencing homelessness.

- Jen Jenkins responded that the intent of OHA's bill is to promote access to housing and employment for people who have a criminal record due to being cited and/or arrested for homeless-related offenses, and that this will help to address the problem of people struggling to exit homelessness due to criminal record barriers. Ultimately, getting people into housing is the most important way to address the problem on both sides.

- b. **Discussion regarding updates from the Continua of Care (CoC) regarding the 2021 Point in Time count for unsheltered homeless individuals, FY 2020 CoC Program Competition, and advocacy priorities for the 2021 legislative session. This item will include the adoption of 2021 legislative advocacy priorities. (Vote)**

Presentation by Ms. Laura Thielen.

Ms. Thielen reminded the Council that Partners in Care will not be conducting an in-person unsheltered Point in Time Count in 2021, although the count of individuals in shelters will take place. HUD has not yet issued a final statement on the availability of a FY 2020 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability. PIC is hoping for a truncated version of the NOFA or a one-year extension of existing awards.

PIC's priority is the \$4.5M consolidated permanent supportive housing grant. The current contract with HUD expires at the end of March 2021. Other PIC CoC contracts are in place through May 2021 or later. PIC will continue to track the status of the CoC NOFA and other updates from HUD.

Presentation by Ms. Brandee Menino.

Ms. Menino reaffirmed the issues raised by Partners in Care regarding the 2021 unsheltered Point in Time Count and the FY 2020 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability. Bridging the Gap will be working on an exemption request to HUD for the unsheltered portion of the 2021 Point in Time Count. In addition to sustaining current social service agency budgets, Bridging the Gap remains concerned about State hiring freezes and the impact on the Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office, which serves as the pass-through agency for BTG's allocation of certain federal funds, such as ESG and HOPWA, in addition to administering State-funded homeless programs.

The Chair added that Hawaii's U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness representative, Ms. Katy Miller, shared that every community in her district has requested a waiver of the unsheltered portion of the 2021 Point in Time Count.

Presentation by Chair Morishige.

The Chair shared a summary of 2021 Legislative Priorities identified by all presenters, including: source of income discrimination, expungement of non-violent homeless criminal offenses, sustaining funding for \$10.8M in core homeless services that are not currently funded beyond June 30, 2021, and sustained funding for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, and other affordable housing projects.

Discussion and Questions.

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the Council.

Representative Yamane asked whether the Governor will be filling the vacant positions within the Homeless Programs Office, and whether the \$10.8M for core homeless programs is in the Governor's proposed budget and if so, whether those line items would be subject to the ten percent departmental reductions. If the \$10.8M for core homeless services is not in the budget, Representative Yamane requested an explanation.

- The Chair thanked Representative Yamane and stated that it is the Chair's understanding that the Department of Human Services has requested for permission to fill certain positions, and the request is still pending with the Department of Budget & Finance. The Chair does not believe that B&F considers the programs identified in the \$10.8M figure to be a part of the executive budget, therefore the ten percent reduction would not apply. DHS is drafting a separate bill to request funding for those items for FY 2022 and FY 2023.

At the Chair's request, Representative Yamane asked if there is a commitment from the Governor to not apply the ten percent departmental restrictions to the \$10.8M programs and is he going to release those monies when it's established by the leg

- The Chair believes that homeless programs and other non-discretionary programs are currently exempt from the ten percent, acknowledging that the economic situation is constantly evolving. The Department is trying to look at reductions in other areas to avoid reductions to services for this population.

Representative Yamane thanked the Chair and shared his concern regarding the ability of the Department to sustain the \$10.8M for homeless programs, noting that the Department will need to identify reductions within its own budget to make up the difference. Representative Yamane suggested that potential Medicaid savings could help to free up funds, but requested the Department's help to identify areas to restrict in order to fund the requested \$10.8M. These considerations would be necessary to aid in the movement of the proposed bill during the 2021 Legislative Session.

- The Chair thanked Representative Yamane for his willingness to be transparent about the State's budget situation, noting that it is critical for the Council to understand and be aware that the availability of General Funds cannot be guaranteed.

Mr. Alexander stated that the current situation is an opportunity for providers to unite their advocacy efforts to protect critical, life-saving services, and recognized that 112 homeless individuals have died in 2020.

- The Chair thanked Mr. Alexander for his contributions.

Senator San Buenaventura supported Representative Yamane's comments, clarifying that it is the Department of Human Services budget that is responsible for these programs. Senator San Buenaventura does not believe there will be any more Ohana Zone funds in the foreseeable future, adding that the extension granted by Act 128, SLH 2019 only provided additional time to expend the funds. Departments should prioritize their requests to ensure that budget cuts will have the least possible impact.

- The Chair thanked Senator San Buenaventura for sharing her comments with the Council, and assured that the Chair's office has been working closely with Director Betts on homeless priorities within the Department's budget.

Mr. Ouansafi added that there are many services and programs offered by other Departments, such as the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, that prevent families from becoming homeless and are an important part of the discussion about the State budget.

- The Chair recognized Mr. Ouansafi's comments.

Seeing no further questions, the Chair requested a motion to adopt the 2021 Legislative Priorities as presented to the Council. A motion was made by Ms. Menino, and was seconded by Mr. Alexander. The Chair called for further discussion, and seeing none, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair noted comments made by the Council's Legislative members for the official record.

c. Discussion regarding the adoption of a communications plan to increase awareness of the homeless issue and council activities, including the adoption of a logo for the HICH.

Presentation by Mr. Jason Kasamoto, Mr. Justin Limasa, and Mr. Jonah Saribay.

Mr. Kasamoto summarized the Council's statutory mandate as outlined in HRS § 346-381 (b) (8). The proposed communications objectives include:

- Promoting and increasing awareness of the HICH and its role as a statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity.
- Promoting and increasing awareness of homeless programs and services, including activities of the Continua of Care (CoCs).
- Sharing information regarding the Council's strategy and framework to address homelessness.

To better achieve these objectives, the Office of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, on behalf of the Council, is conducting the following activities:

- Developed a logo for the HICH (credit: Jonah Saribay, BSW candidate and intern)
- Created videos and printed materials for public distribution, including "Talk Story" video segments, program-specific infographics, and written articles and social media posts
- Organized targeted webinars and educational sessions, such as the Behavioral Health and Homelessness Statewide Unified Response Group (BHHSURG) weekly webinar series
- Coordinated no-cost trainings for businesses and partners to better understand outreach and other homeless services

The GCH Office has been leveraging community partnerships by continuing to utilize student interns from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, despite the site-based challenges

presented by COVID-19.GCH also participate in meetings hosted by both CoCs, and regularly partner with other State agencies and other HICH members on communications efforts. Recent partnerships include outreach with Department of Land and Natural Resources staff and homeless service providers to educate encampment residents about upcoming COVID-19 testing, and interviews with Department of Transportation Homeless Coordinator Mr. Jun Yang.

In addition to the usage of social media and webinar platforms to communicate the work of the Council, Mr. Saribay described the creation of a proposed Council logo, utilizing symbolic elements to capture the work of the members of the Council. Mr. Limasa reviewed updates to the GCH website, including daily shelter vacancy counts, outreach provider contact information, and compilation of long-form stories and informal "Talk Story" interviews with local leaders and practitioners. The GCH Office will be continuing the weekly Behavioral Health and Homelessness Statewide Uniform Response Group webinars into a monthly webinar series in 2021.

Discussion and Questions.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation and requested a motion to adopt the proposed logo for the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness as presented. Motion was made by Mr. Ouansafi, and was seconded by Mr. Johnson. Seeing no further discussion, the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Permitted Interaction Group

- a. **Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness.**

The Chair noted that the permitted interaction group met and developed a draft framework for a new ten-year plan, which was included in the meeting packet for members to review. The Chair shared that the plan framework was developed base on recommendations from the Year One Evaluation Report for the `Ohana Zones initiative prepared by evaluator Heather Henderson with Collaborative Quality Consulting. The permitted interaction group will continue to meet prior to the March 2021 meeting and will circulate the draft plan framework to community stakeholders for feedback, with the intention of sharing the plan for review and a possible vote in March 2021.

- b. **Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to explore the intersection between homelessness and health, and make recommendations to the full council for action.**

There are no updates from the permitted interaction group at this time.

IX. Executive Session

Pursuant to H.R.S. §92-7(a), the Council may, when deemed necessary, hold an Executive Session on any agenda item without the written public notice if the Executive Session was not anticipated in advance. Any such Executive Session shall be held pursuant to H.R.S. §92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in H.R.S. §92-5(a). Discussions held in Executive Session are closed to the public.

The Chair stated that an Executive Session is not necessary at this time.

X. Topics for Upcoming Meetings

The Chair asked members to contact his office with additional suggestions for upcoming meetings. The office can be reached at 586-0193 or by e-mail at gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov.

XI. **Meeting Schedule**

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2020 calendar year:

- Monday, December 21, 2020, 10 a.m. to noon

XII. **Adjourn**

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Ouansafi. The Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

Justin Limasa
Homelessness Assistant

Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on September 21, 2020.

[] As Presented [] As Amended

Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

Date