

Act 209 (SLH 2018): Ohana Zones Program Update



October 11, 2021



Photo: Kealaula at Pua Loke Affordable Housing for Homeless Families

What is an Ohana Zone?

An Ohana Zone is a place:

- (1) That has a program to address basic needs of individuals experiencing homelessness; and
- (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care services, transportation, and other services may be offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness into affordable housing.



Kumuwai
(Oahu)



Hale Hanakahi
(Hawaii Island)



HONU
(Oahu)



Huliau
(Maui)



Kealaula
(Kauai)

Act 209 (2018) and Act 128 (2019)

- Appropriated \$32M for Ohana Zones
- Established a temporary pilot program through June 2023.
- Required a minimum of six projects – three (3) sites on Oahu and one (1) site each on Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island.
- Provided the Governor with flexibility to designate different State agencies to implement the program.
- Requires annual status reports to the Legislature.



November 2019: Keolahou Emergency Shelter blessing.

Ohana Zone Development Process



Identified and assessed vacant State and County lands and facilities not actively in use.



Identified opportunities to leverage additional funding and in-kind contributions.



Examined local data from the Point in Time Count (PITC) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

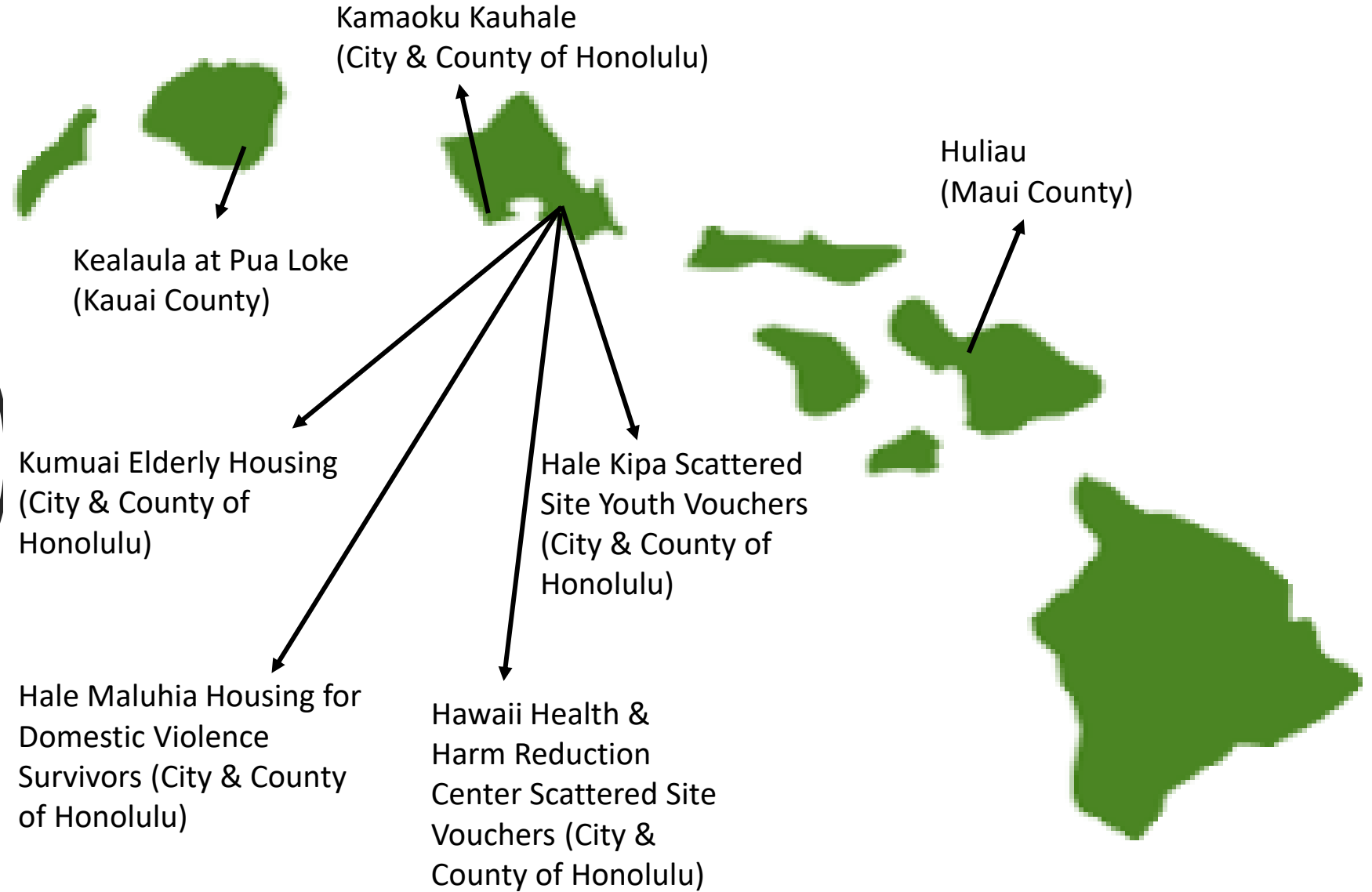


Partnered with the four counties to identify needs in their local communities.

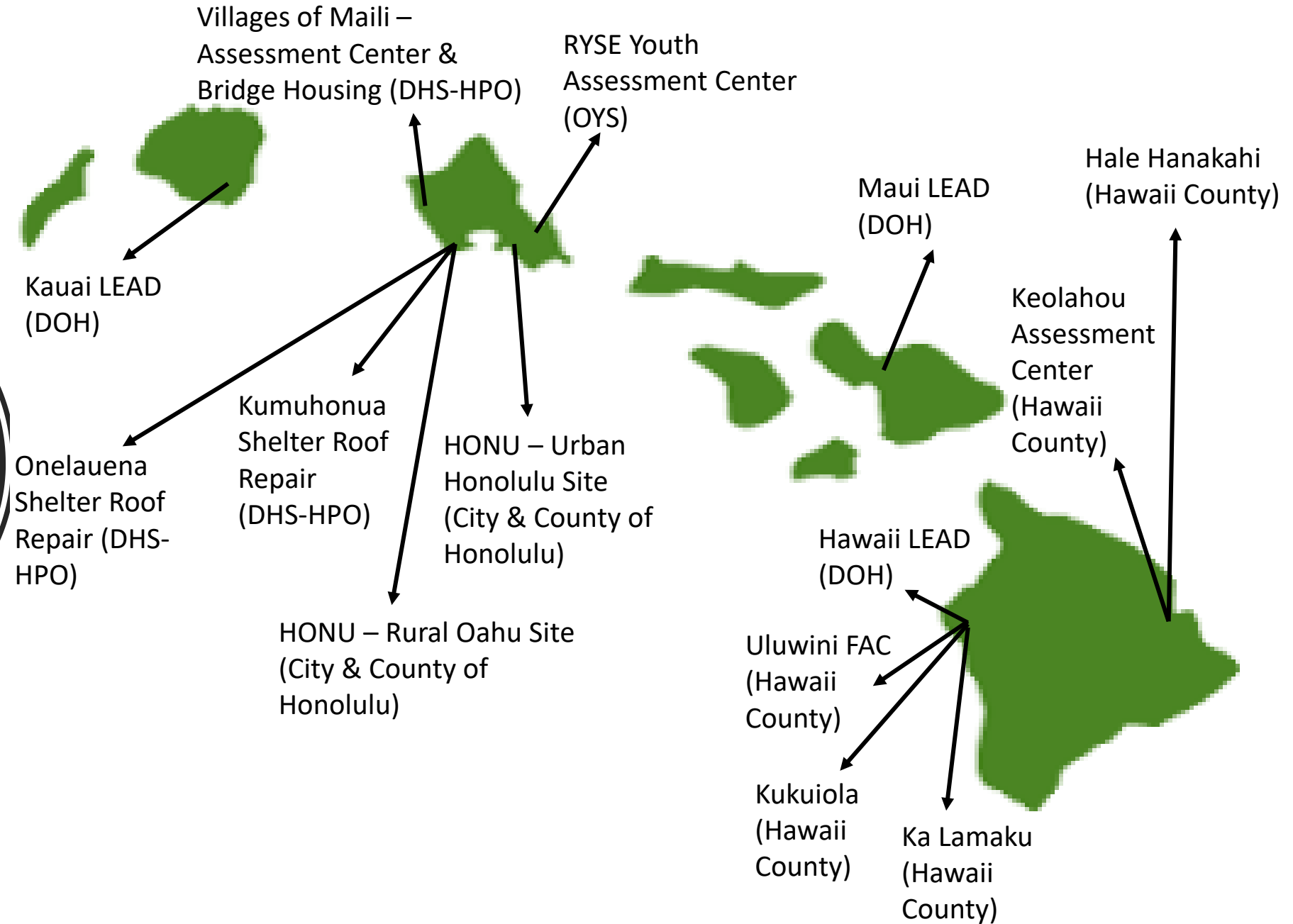


Established 20 different Ohana Zone sites to provide permanent housing, as well as increase outreach and shelter capacity.

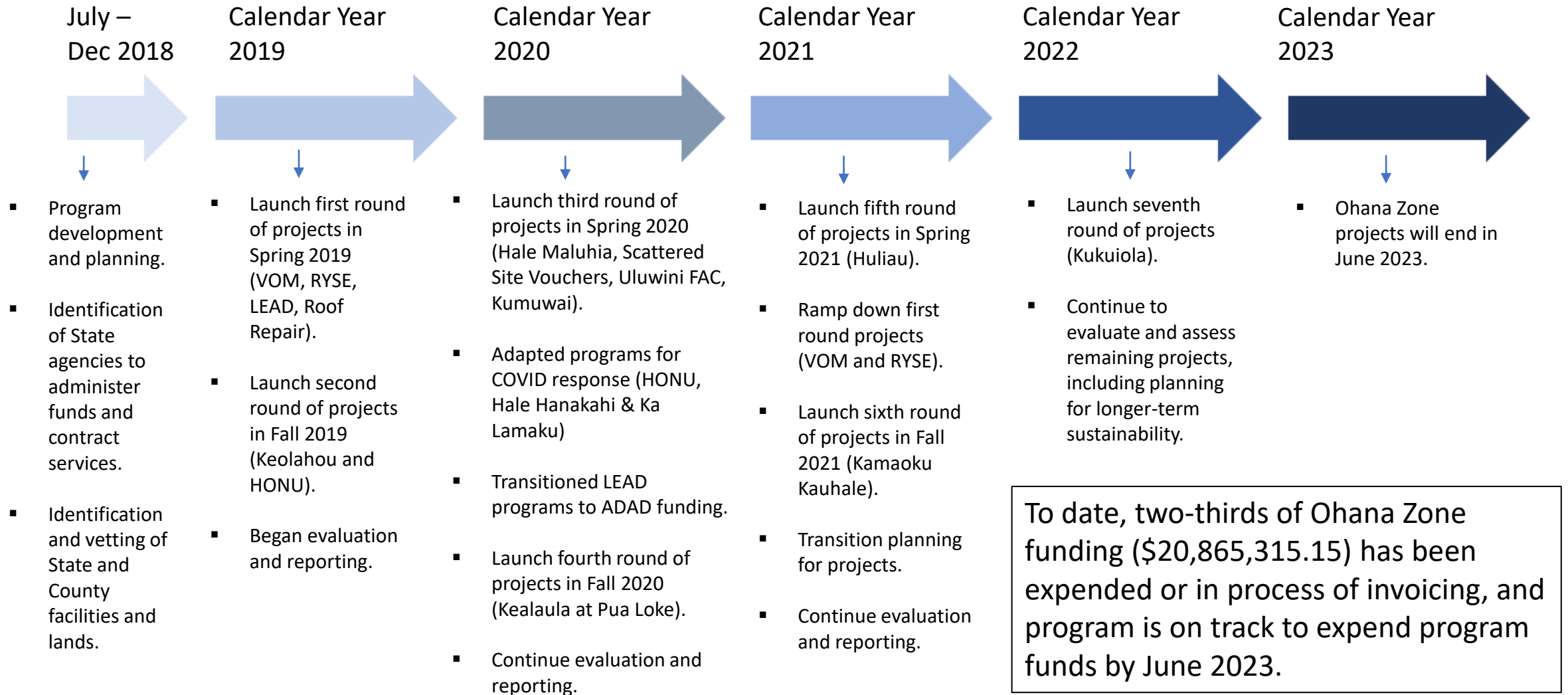
Ohana Zones: Building Permanent Housing Capacity



Ohana Zones: Building Shelter & Outreach Capacity



Ohana Zone Timeline



Ohana Zone Impact (as of September 30, 2021)

358 beds/units preserved

(includes beds that would otherwise have been lost due to needed repairs or lack of funding to continue program services)

469 new beds/units created

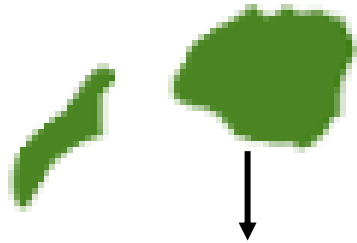
(includes beds created due to new construction or repurposing of facilities/land)

5,067 total individuals served

1,129 total individuals placed
into permanent housing



Ohana Zones: Impact by Geographic Region



Kauai:

- Total served – 161
- Total into PH – 71



Oahu:

- Total served – 3,532
- Total into PH – 791



Maui:

- Total served – 417
- Total into PH – 52



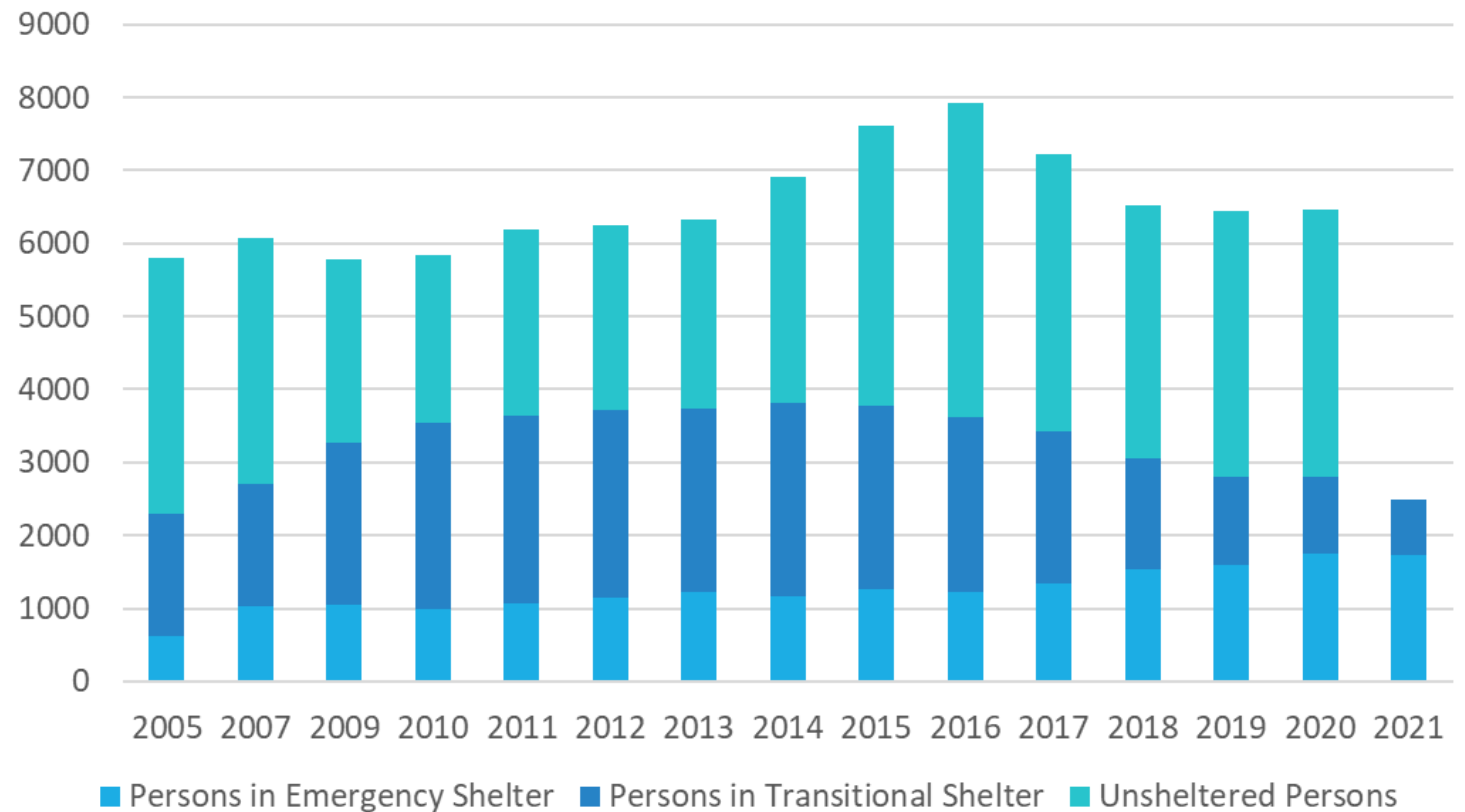
Hawaii Island:

- Total served – 957
- Total into PH – 215

Analysis of Statewide Point in Time Count Over Time

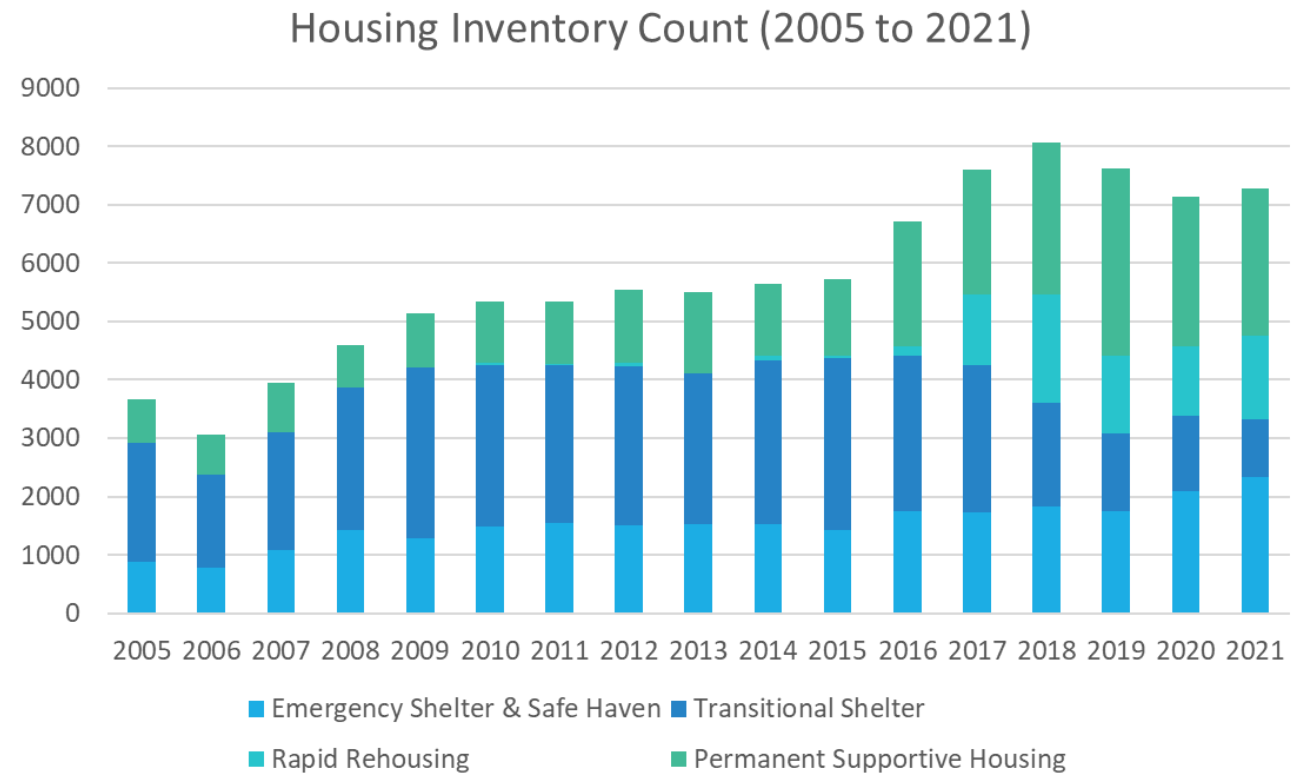
- In 2021, no unsheltered count was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is difficult to gauge the impact of the Ohana Zone program on the statewide homelessness PIT count.
- On Neighbor Islands, the number in Emergency Shelter increased by 128 compared to prior year.
- Ohana Zones may have contributed to increase in neighbor island sheltered count, indicating increased emergency shelter capacity.
- Does not reflect people staying in HONU program.

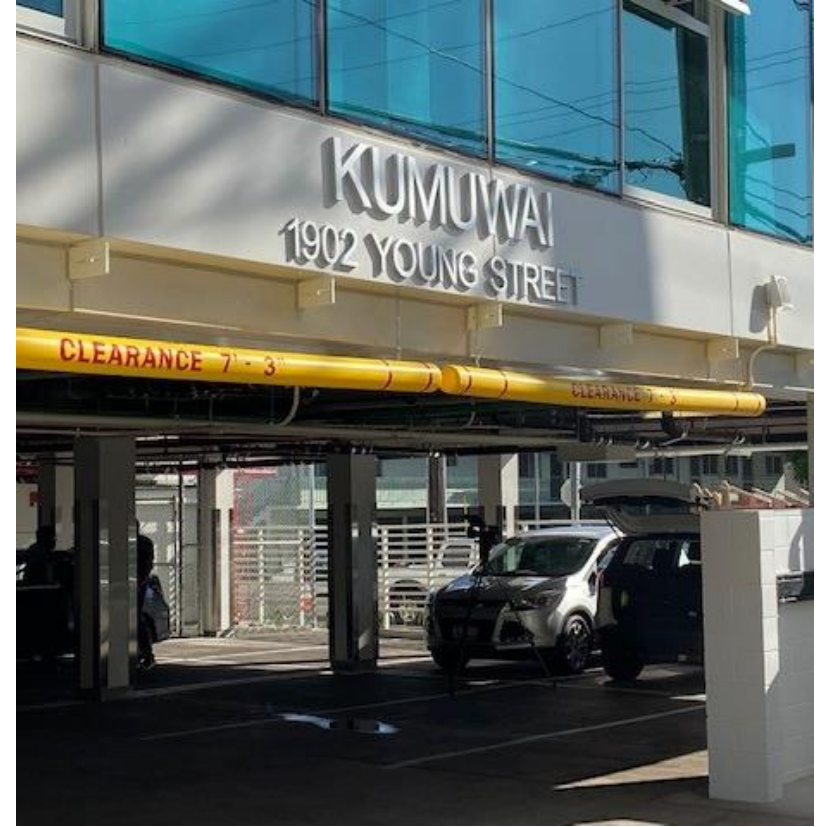
2005 – 2021 Point in Time Count



Ohana Zone Impact on Statewide Housing Inventory

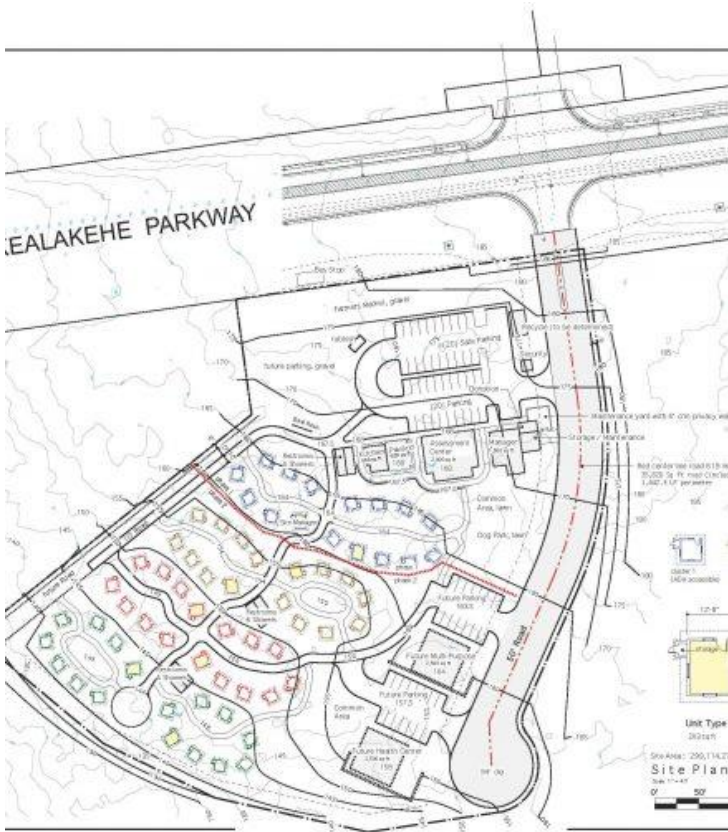
- Between 2020-2021, the total number of permanent housing beds increased.
- Increase in emergency shelter beds between 2019-2021 – an increase of 33% (580 beds) statewide.
- Overall trends reflect change in federal, state and local funding and policy.
- HONU not included in counts.
- Ohana Zones appears to have a positive impact on increasing emergency shelter and permanent housing beds.





Ohana Zone Case Study:
Programs facilitate transition from encampment to housing

Opportunity for Leverage



- Capital funding for construction and infrastructure costs.
- Contributions of donated time and materials.
- Land for current and future projects.
- Ohana Zone investment enables longer-term expansion of housing (e.g. Huliau, Kukuioa)

Key Challenges

- Time needed for construction and site work caused delays in implementation for some projects.
- Unexpected impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Federal program guidelines may not include non-traditional housing or shelter projects (e.g. HONU or 'tiny homes').
- Sustainability of funding for programs beyond the pilot period.



COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- Ohana Zone contracts were modified to enable flexibility during the pandemic.
- On Hawaii Island, funds were utilized to bring online two new tiny home projects – Hale Hanakahi and Ka Lamaku – to increase shelter capacity.
- On Oahu, the HONU project was converted to POST (Provisional Outdoor Screening & Triage) to enable social distancing.





Our Newest Ohana Zone: Kamaoku Kauhale

- Partnership between the Lieutenant Governor's Office, DHS, HPHA, City & County of Honolulu, HomeAid Hawaii, U.S. Vets, and many volunteers.
- Adds 37 new tiny home units of permanent housing for individuals transitioning out of homelessness.
- Ohana Zone funds provide start-up costs for rental subsidy and operating costs.
- Utilizes shared dining and gathering spaces to promote relationship building and community.



Questions?

- Phone: (808) 586-0193
- E-mail: gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov
- Ohana Zone Website:
<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/ohana-zones>

