

**Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness
(HICH)**

Joint In-Person and Microsoft Team Virtual
Teleconference

at the

Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Conference,
Room 3

300 Rodgers Blvd. #12 Honolulu, HI 96819
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Attendees:

Mr. Jun Yang	Chair, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Dr. Kenneth Fink (and Mr. Chad Koyanagi)	for Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Mr. David Rodriguez	for Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Ms. Cynthia Rezentes	for Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)
Mr. Bruce Oliveria	for Adjutant General of the Department of Defense (DOD)
Ms. Lila King	for Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General (AG)
Ms. Toby Portner	for Superintendent of the Department of Education (DOE)
Mr. Ben Park	for Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)
Mr. Adam Roversi (and Ms. Farah Aquino)	for Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Erin Samura	for the Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Laura Thielen	Continuum of Care for Oahu
Ms. Makana Kamibayashi	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Ms. Lindsay Kaumeheiwa	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Mr. Mark Chandler	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Mr. Mike Lambert	Department of Law Enforcement (DLE)
Ms. Kennedy Poligratis	for Director of Business and Economic Development and Tourism
Ms. Amy Wake	Faith Based

Absent:

Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Senate
for Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu
County of Maui
Continuum of Care for the County of Maui
Continuum of Care for the County of Hawai'i

Staff:

Business Community Representative *VACANT
Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing
Solutions (SOHHS) Staff:
Mr. Brandon Mitsuda;
Ms. Reina Purvis;
Ms. Emma Grochowsky;
Mr. Alan Ong
Ms. Lili Young, Deputy Attorney General

I. Call to Order, Taking of the Roll, Determination of Quorum [00:8:30]

Chair Jun Yang called the meeting of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to order at 10:03 am and began by quickly introducing himself and taking roll for quorum.

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was established with 17 out of 27 members present at that time. The Chair then reviewed several general housekeeping items and noted the presence of Deputy Attorney General Lili Young to provide counsel on Sunshine matters.

II. Overview and Approval of March 10, 2026, Agenda (Vote) [00:12:27]

The Chair presented the agenda and asked members to briefly review it. The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Rezentes moved, seconded by Member Rodriguez. The Chair allowed for public testimony and finding none. The Chair called for the question and the motion passed with none abstaining, no nay votes, or further discussion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on December 16, 2025 (Vote) [00:15:55]

The Chair gave the council a few minutes to review the drafted minutes of the previous HICH meeting held on December 16, 2025.

The Chair then requested a motion to approve the minutes as is for the December 16, 2025 meeting. Member Portner moved and Kaumeheiwa seconded. The Chair allowed for public testimony and found none. The Chair called for the question and the motion passed with no nay votes or further discussion. The minutes were approved.

The Chair announced the arrival of Member Samura at 00:14:34 making the total present member count to 18 members.

IV. Public Testimony [00:16:00]

The Chair opened up the floor to public testimony on any items on the agenda. No members of the public testified.

V. New Business [00:16:18]

- a. **Presentation by Maui County Homelessness Coordinator Naomi Crozier on current Maui County efforts, services, and resources addressing homelessness.**

The Chair explained that this item will be taken up at a future HICH meeting as the presenter Member Crozier was unable to join the meeting.

b. Updates by Mark Chandler on the current landscape of Federal Funding for homelessness and homelessness agencies.

The Chair thanked the presenter for coming to provide updates from United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) especially as it relates to federal funding as it is top of mind here in Hawai'i.

Mr. Chandler provided information on the funding of Federal Housing Programs with supported data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Mr. Chandler also provided information on resources for people to get more information from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's budget cycle and to understand the landscape of HUD funding availability.

Mr. Chandler then shared that Section 8 rental assistance increased by \$2,000,000, that homeless programs has seen an increase too and Community Resources Fund increased by \$3,000,000.

Mr. Chandler also stated that the 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is in litigation and he cannot really discuss it because it is in litigation. He also said that based on the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation, HUD has some direction. He also advises people to take the Section 8 voucher if it is offered because there are no guarantees under the NOFO.

The Chair asked, how soon will earmarks go through in this process? Mr. Chandler answered that they are still working through 2022 earmarks and said HUD will put up a guide on their website for 2026.

Mr. Chandlers presentation concluded at 10:33 am and no public testimony was provided for this agenda item presentation.

c. Review and testimony coordination for 2026 Legislative Session on bills relating to homelessness and homelessness agencies.

The Chair stated that under HB1800 regarding the administration's budget, Department of Human Services and the Statewide Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions. He reported that the next hearing for this measure is on March 11, 2026 at 10:00 am. He also reported that in the bill, there is \$10,000,000 for 2 projects: one that is on the Westside of Oahu and the other in Wahiawa. He also reported that he is seeking to get \$300,000 in reoccurring funds to be reinstated.

The Chair also reported on SB2803 that the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing

Solutions provided comments and the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness may have an opportunity to review it.

The Chair further reported on SB2257 that the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions provided comments and the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness may have an opportunity to review it.

Dr. Champion from the Governor's Office and Member Lambert reported that the legislature is considering SB3142 regarding public intoxication and pathways to care and treatment. They also discussed SB709 that covers pathways to care, a trained crisis intervention office, clarifies assisted community treatment and talks about assistance from the Attorney General's Office.

Member Theilen asked what happens if they get arrested and there is no bed? Dr. Champion answered that under SB3142 dealing with crisis intervention they have to do evaluation for potential detox, then get assessed before they return to the community. Member Theilen commented that there needs to be a plan for the bed space first otherwise it results in overpopulation.

VI. Continuing Business [00:49:45]

The Chair reminded all members to submit reports on their efforts to address homelessness pertaining to the focus areas of the 10-Year Strategic Plan. Member Theilen put the Partners In Care (PIC) report in the chat.

VII. General Announcements [00:51:51]

The Chair opened up the floor for members to share any general announcements.

Member Rodriguez stated that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Unemployment Division is available 24/7 online and the in-person office hours changed from the old office hours from 7:45 am to 4:00 pm and are now 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Member Chandler stated that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is getting requests from homeless clients for housing. He asked if there can be an update from Partners In Care where clients cannot be housed in other non-profit shelters? Member Theilen responded that there is a lack of units and housing navigators. There is an increase in phone calls but no call back to answer the questions. She also said that some are using calls services that are not live but are pre-press button with automated answers and some have an intake process. She said that if the thought is to go to robo calls for homeless, maybe the Hawaii Inter Agency Council On Homelessness can consider that topic for future discussion. Member Chandler indicated that there are significant monies in the Housing and Urban Development consolidated program, but it is unknown what the NOFO in 2025 and 2026 impact will be and because of that uncertainty that funding may be lost. Member Theilen is working with Aloha United Way on their 2-1-1 line, and Aloha United Way might take over intake but that is still a work in progress. The Chair indicated that this could be a future topic for a presentation and Member Theilen said that she could help with this when the timing is right.

The Chair also mentioned that the weather and Kona Lows will be affecting the community and the areas of concern are streams, coastal areas, and those areas vulnerable to landslides and water inundation. Those in the Emergency Operation Centers are thinking of ways to support our community who will be impacted.

VIII. Topics for Upcoming Meetings [1:01:55]

The Chair suggested that a future topic could be building up outreach responders and support. He also stated that he has asked for training from Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) for all of the counties and that this training would be done for free.

The Chair also said that there could be a discussion on how communities prepare for Hurricane Season and Kauai County could present on updates on how the county is working on the issue.

Member Rodriguez said that during COVID he was a volunteer and he screened people arriving to the islands and asked where they were staying. He said if there were none stated, they were identified as houseless and returned to their place of origin.

The Chair opened up the floor to public testimony on items VII and VIII. No members of the public testified.

IX. Meeting Schedule [1:07:00]

The Chair announced the tentative date for the next HICH regular meeting to be on June 16, 2026, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the same Airport Conference Room 3. There was no further discussion or additional questions. The Chair opened up the floor to public testimony on item IX. No members of the public testified.

X. Adjourn [01:12:45]

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Member Portner moved, and Member Koyanagi seconded. The Chair called the question and the motion passed with none abstaining, no nay votes, or further discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:

_____	6/17/2026
Kara Crail	Date
Administrative Assistant	
Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions	

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at its regular meeting on June 17, 2026.

☐ As Presented ☒ As Amended

_____	_____
Jun D. Yang	Date
Chair	