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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
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DR 22.048

December 23, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed are the following reports submitted under section 346-381(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (Part I), and Act 252, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, Relating to the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (Part 2).

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Director

Enclosure

- c: Governor's Office  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
Department of Budget & Finance  
Legislative Auditor  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)  
Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, 1 electronic copy)  
Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

**REPORTS TO THE THIRTY-SECOND HAWAI`I STATE LEGISLATURE 2023**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 346-381(9), HAWAI`I REVISED STATUTES, ON THE HAWAI`I  
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

**AND**

**ACT 252, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI`I 2022, RELATING TO THE  
STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

**HAWAI`I INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS  
STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DECEMBER 2022**

## INTRODUCTION

These reports are submitted in accordance with the provisions [of section 346-381\(9\), Hawai'i Revised Statutes \(HRS\)](#), on the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) and Act 252, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2022, relating to the establishment of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS).

The HICH is modeled after the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and serves “as the statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity with broad representation from state and county government and the community.”<sup>1</sup> The HICH consists of 27 members representing federal, State, and local government and public and private sectors. The Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH) is the chair of the HICH.

Since 2015, the GCH and a staff of four employees have supported the work of the HICH, directed state-level policy regarding homelessness, and coordinated intergovernmental efforts to end homelessness statewide. This work included developing and implementing a ten-year strategic plan and providing input regarding performance metrics for State homelessness contracts and alignment of State and county efforts to expand shelter and develop new housing inventory.

Act 252, SLH 2022, established a new Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) to be headed by the GCH. The SOHHS is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services (DHS), with the GCH as its lead. The SOHHS is statutorily mandated to (1) Work with State, county, and community agencies to develop solutions to prevent and end homelessness in the State and (2) Develop and test innovative solutions to prevent and end homelessness. In addition, SOHHS is to identify and address gaps in the homeless services system, provide administrative support to the HICH, and establish and maintain a statewide homelessness and housing clearinghouse.

Between 2016 and 2022, Hawai'i saw a steady **25 percent decrease** in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness statewide from 7,921 to 5,973. In addition, the number of families with minor children experiencing homelessness **declined by 53 percent**, from 805 families to 376 families. Notably, bed inventory for people experiencing homelessness increased during this timeframe from 6,707 beds to 7,709 beds. In particular, permanent housing beds for people experiencing homelessness increased from 2,295 beds to 4,984 beds - a 117% increase in permanent housing beds.

This report summarizes current efforts to address homelessness statewide and highlights critical challenges related to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as federal pandemic assistance and emergency waivers end at the same time and high prices continue, there is a concern for a growing number of individuals and families who may become at risk of homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> Act 105, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012, codified at section 346-381(b)(1), HRS.

Looking forward to 2023, the HICH and SOHHS identify three main priorities for advocacy:

- (1) Increase housing stock, including supportive housing and non-traditional housing such as Kauhale, for people experiencing homelessness;
- (2) Keep people housed and sustain existing services, including maintaining funding for core homeless services;
- (3) Provide quality services for individuals experiencing homelessness, especially those with the most urgent needs, by scaling services, increasing access to programs for higher-needs populations, and paying workers a living wage.

In addition, the HICH and SOHHS will continue implementing the Ohana Zones pilot program; Act 235, SLH 2022, recently extended the Ohana Zones pilot program through June 2026. Plans for SOHHS include continuing working with the four counties to sustain previously funded Ohana Zones pilot projects and consider expansion efforts to increase emergency shelter and housing. Please direct questions regarding this report to the SOHHS at [gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov](mailto:gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov).

**PART I:**  
**REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF**  
**SECTION 346-381(9), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

The Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) is an advisory body that serves as a statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity with broad representation from the state and county governments and the community.

Section 346-381(9), HRS, requires the HICH to submit a report to the Legislature on the progress of its activities, including the formation and progress of the ten-year strategic plan (Ten-Year Plan) to address homelessness, no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session.

This report highlights the following key points:

- Current status of homelessness in Hawai'i, including impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Overview of the HICH, including its membership, mission and responsibilities, historical background, and staffing and organizational structure;
- 2022 HICH activities to address homelessness, including progress in implementing the Ten-Year Plan and framework to address homelessness; and
- Proposals and recommendations for 2023.

A record of HICH meetings convened in 2022, including meeting agendas and minutes, can be found online at <https://homelessness.Hawaii.gov/hich/>.

## **I. Current State of Homelessness in Hawai'i**

### **A. Homeless Point in Time Count Data (2005 to 2022).**

The annual homeless Point in Time (PIT) count is a crucial data source to evaluate the current State of homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to conduct a PIT count. PIT count data from states and territories are aggregated and reported to Congress annually. The count is typically conducted each January by the two Continuum of Care (CoC) agencies – Partners in Care for O`ahu and Bridging the Gap for Maui, Hawai'i, and Kaua'i counties. The PIT includes a count of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness.

In 2022, Bridging the Gap conducted its PIT count in January, and Partners in Care conducted its count in March. The 2022 PIT count included a count of both sheltered and unsheltered individuals.

The CoCs did not conduct a PIT count in 2021 for unsheltered individuals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the most recent PIT count before 2022 was in January 2020.

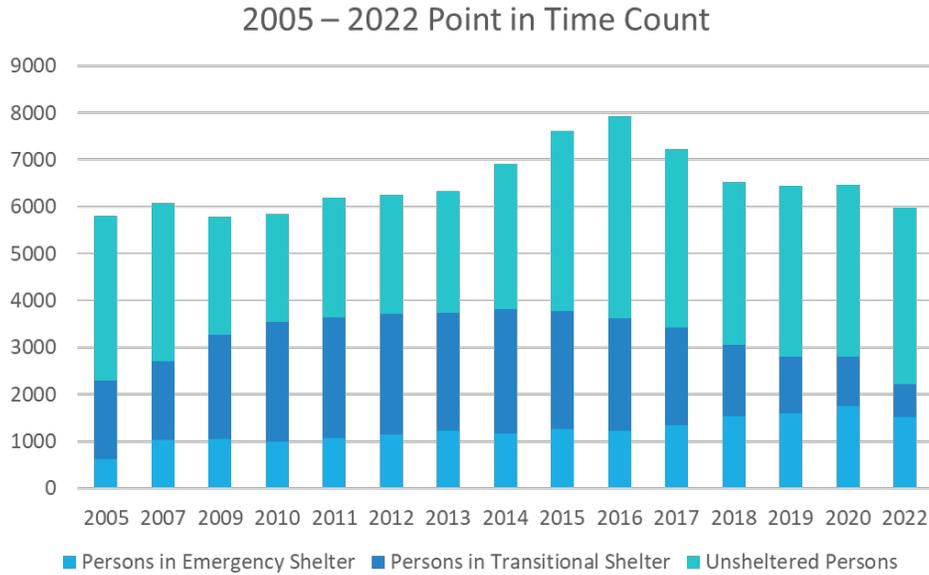


Figure 1. Statewide PIT Count (2005 to 2022). Source: HUD Homeless Population and Sub-Population Report.

Between 2016 and 2022, homeless individuals statewide decreased by 1,948 people, a 25% reduction. There were also significant statewide reductions in key homeless sub-populations during this timeframe:

- Family households experiencing homelessness declined by 53%, a reduction of 429 families;
- Veterans experiencing homelessness declined by 50%, a reduction of 334 veterans;
- Chronically homeless individuals declined by 22%, a reduction of 425 individuals; and
- Unsheltered homelessness declined by 13%, a reduction of 559 unsheltered individuals.

It is important to be aware that the PIT count has several limitations, such as variation in count methodology year-to-year within and across the CoCs. For example, PIT count data is self-reported and largely reliant upon volunteers to conduct the count. In 2020, the O`ahu CoC changed its PIT count methodology by conducting the count on a single day instead of over a week, as in prior years. The change in methodology for O`ahu also included using an observation-only tool to count individuals, in addition to the traditional survey method. In 2022, the O`ahu CoC reported 1,471 (63%) out of 2,355 unsheltered individuals as counted through observation, meaning that additional demographic data previously captured by a survey was not available for these individuals.

For example, determining whether an individual in the PIT count is chronically homeless relies on information gathered through survey data about the length of time a person was homeless and their number of disabling conditions. However, reliance on observation alone cannot identify whether an individual is chronically homeless. Accordingly, the number of chronically homeless individuals counted in 2022 may be an undercount due to the high number of people ‘observed’ in the O`ahu PIT count instead of surveyed.

Regardless of its limitations, the PIT count provides a recognized measure of trends in the number of people experiencing homelessness over time. Historical PIT count data may project the possible impact of an economic slowdown on the number of people experiencing homelessness. For example, following the last economic recession in 2008-2009, homelessness increased by 37% between 2009 and 2016, reflecting an overall increase of 2,139 individuals experiencing homelessness. The gradual increase over a prolonged period following the 2009 recession suggests the potential for a similar long-term increase in homelessness following the adverse economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**i. Trends in PIT Count for Sheltered Homelessness (2005-2022).**

While the number of homeless people in transitional shelters has declined, the number of people in emergency shelters has increased by 33% (378 people) between 2012 and 2021. However, there was an 11% (from 1,713 to 1,519) reduction in individuals using emergency shelters in 2021-2022. The reduction may be attributed to the pandemic impacts of COVID-19, the closure of emergency shelters after positive cases, increased social distancing, new COVID-19 vaccination requirements for emergency shelter facilities, and the recent closure of the Next Step and Kakaako Family Assessment Center facilities on O`ahu.

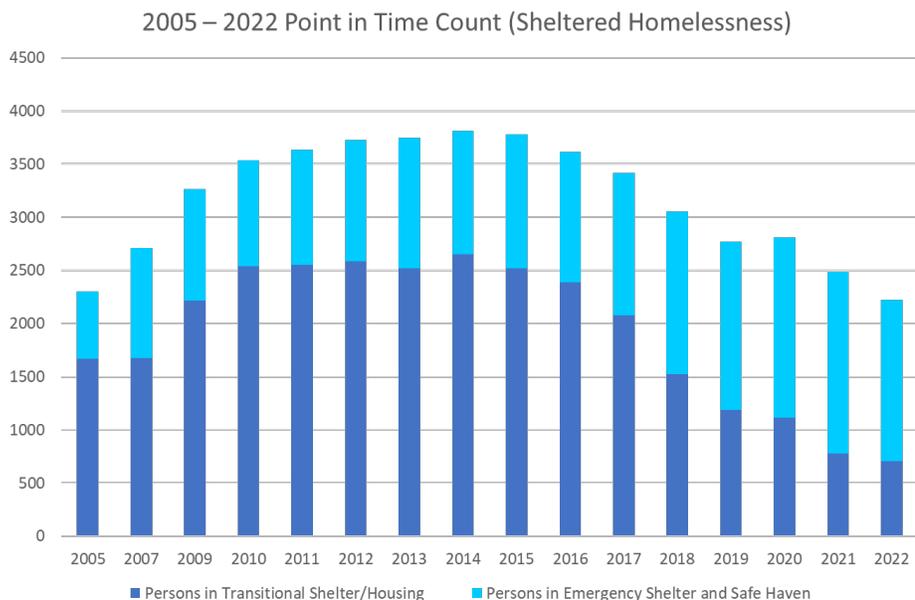


Figure 2. Statewide Sheltered Point in Time Count (2005 - 2022). Source: HUD Homeless Population and Sub-Population Report.

The primary difference between emergency and transitional shelters is that emergency shelters may accept individuals who walk in and need shelter immediately. In contrast, transitional shelters typically require referrals through the CoCs' Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Consideration should be given to strategies that increase the number of homeless people in emergency shelters instead of being unsheltered. Strategies may include the conversion of former transitional shelters to emergency shelters, partnering with the counties to open new emergency shelter facilities, and increasing outreach support to the unsheltered population. In recent years, the State increased emergency shelter capacity on Hawai'i island by combining State Ohana Zone pilot program funding with County-owned facilities or structures.

Future analysis of sheltered PIT count data should also consider the impact of Kauhale villages or other tiny home communities, typically considered permanent housing. Increasing the number of Kauhale and other tiny home communities may reduce the number of sheltered homeless individuals in the PIT count.

**ii. Trends in PIT Count for Unsheltered Homelessness (2005 to 2022):  
Unsheltered homelessness increased on all main islands, mainly driven by  
increases in unsheltered adult households.**

Like overall the PIT count numbers, the statewide unsheltered homeless population increased significantly between 2013 and 2016 before steadily decreasing by 15% (658 individuals) between 2016 and 2020. More recently, between 2020 and 2022, unsheltered homelessness increased statewide by 3% (99 people), driven by slight increases on all main islands.

Between 2020 and 2022, the PIT count found the following increases in unsheltered homelessness:

- O`ahu: 0.4% increase (9 people);
- Maui: 5% increase (22 people);
- Kaula`i: 9% increase (35 people); and
- Hawai`i: 6% increase (33 people).

The increases in unsheltered single adults and adult-only households are driving these changes. Notably, the number of unsheltered family households *decreased* statewide from 119 to 91 households – a 24% decrease (28 fewer families).

**B. McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Data (2005 to 2020).**

Another data trend the HICH considers is data tracked and reported by the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE). DOE tracks students who meet the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Act (McKinney-Vento Act), a broader definition of homelessness used for the PIT count. The primary difference is that the McKinney-Vento Act definition includes "doubled up" individuals in shared housing or residing in hotels or motels. DOE's McKinney-Vento Act data show overall decreases in individuals

experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness between 2016 and 2021 and, like the PIT data, a slight increase in unsheltered students between 2021 and 2022.

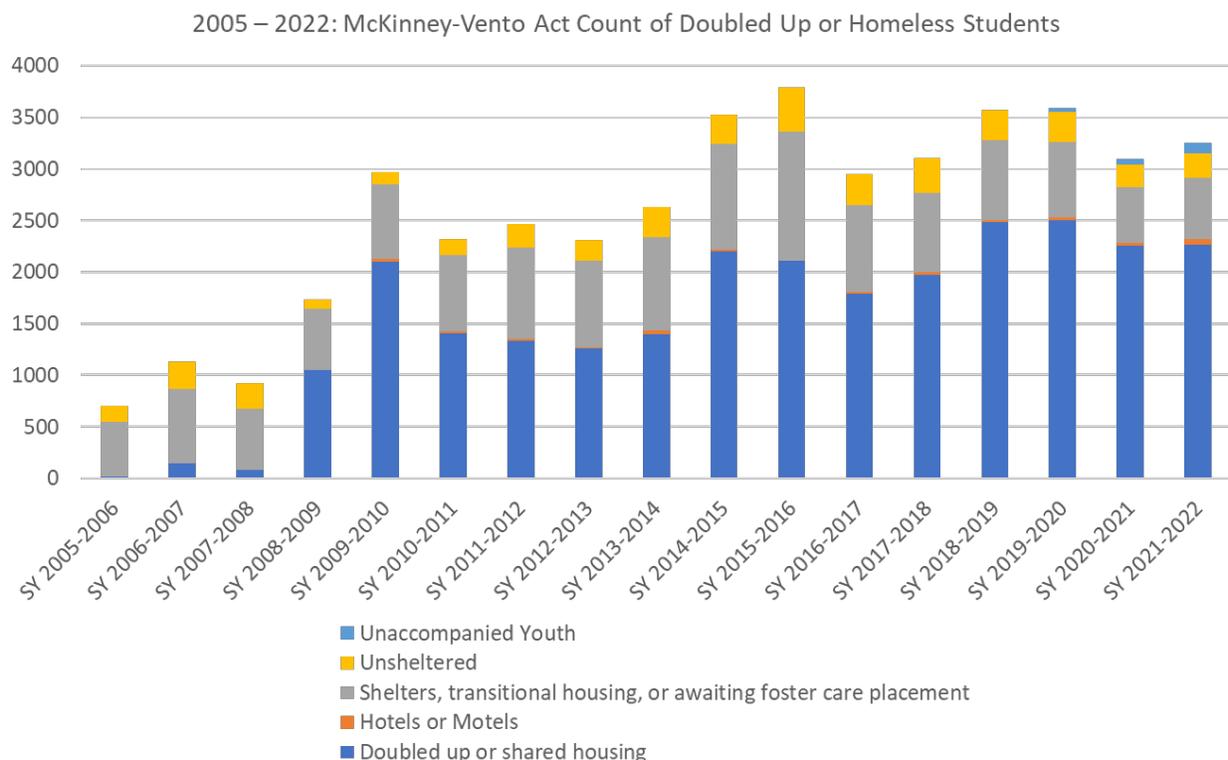


Figure 3. McKinney-Vento Act Data (2005 - 2022). Source: Hawai'i Department of Education.

In school year (SY) 2021-2022, the DOE reported a total of 3,254 students that met the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness.<sup>2</sup> These include:

- 236 (7%) unsheltered,
- 591 (18%) in a sheltered situation,
- 55 (2%) in a hotel or motel,
- 2,269 (70%) "doubled up" or in shared housing, and
- 103 (3%) unaccompanied youth.

Between SY2015-2016 and SY2020-2021, there was an overall reduction of 18% (691 fewer students) in the number of "doubled up" or homeless students. However, between SY2020-2021 and SY2021-2022, the number of "doubled up" or homeless students increased by 5% (155 students), reflecting slight increases in all sub-categories described above.

Notably, the largest percentage increases over the past year occurred for students staying in hotels or motels, which more than doubled over the past school year – an increase from 26 to

<sup>2</sup> Data shared by Hawai'i DOE, Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program

55 students. In addition, unaccompanied youth increased by 66% during the same period—from 62 to 103 students.

**i. Data regarding homeless students and homeless families both show downward trends over time.**

The McKinney-Vento Act data related to unsheltered students or sheltered situations align with general trends in the PIT count data for homeless families with minor children. Both data sets show increases between 2013 and 2016, followed by a decline between 2016 and 2020. The number of students reported by the DOE in unsheltered and sheltered homeless situations decreased by 55% (922 individuals) between SY 2015-2016 and SY 2020-2021. Likewise, the number of homeless individuals in families in the PIT count declined by 43.7% (1,469 individuals) between 2016 and 2020.

While the number of sheltered and unsheltered students in the DOE did increase over the past school year, the increase was slight. The number of sheltered students increased by 10% from 537 to 591 students, and the number of unsheltered students increased by 8% from 218 to 236.

**ii. Students in "doubled up" or shared housing situations.**

Over two-thirds (70%) of students counted in McKinney-Vento Act data are in "doubled up" or shared housing situations. Reports of the number of students in this category have fluctuated over the years. The number of "doubled up" students increased by 3.96% (710 individuals) between SY2016-2017 and SY2019-2020. Since then, the number of "doubled up" students declined and increased again between SY2020-2021 and SY2021-2022. The increase in "doubled up" students over the past year was less than 1% or an increase of 13 students.

While students in the "doubled up" category do not meet the PIT count definition of homelessness, they are in unstable housing situations and potentially at risk of falling into literal homelessness. Most importantly, these students and their families need homeless prevention services to maintain housing stability, avoid homelessness, and preserve their student's ability to succeed in school and parents' and caregivers' ability to seek out and maintain employment.

**C. Housing Inventory Count (2005 to 2022).**

To assess the State's efforts to address homelessness, the HICH also considers the inventory of shelter (e.g., emergency and transitional shelter) and permanent housing resources (e.g., rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing). As the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Hawai'i decreased, the number of permanent housing beds to address homelessness increased. This information is in the annual Housing Inventory Count (HIC), a report provided annually to HUD. For example, Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data shows an overall 266% (3,625 beds) increase for permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid rehousing (RRH) from 2015 to 2022.

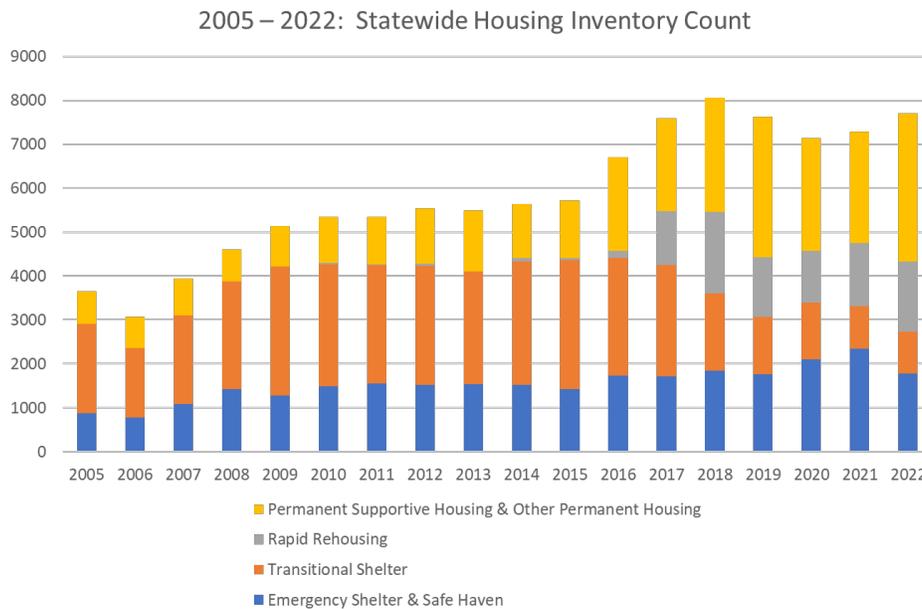


Figure 4. Housing Inventory Count (2005 - 2022). Source: HUD Housing Inventory Count.

However, as permanent housing beds increased, the number of shelter beds decreased over time, driven primarily by a reduction in transitional shelter facilities. Recall the reduction in transitional shelter beds is due to a change in HUD policy beginning in 2012 that prioritized federal HUD funding for permanent housing over funding for transitional shelters. Due to this HUD funding policy, between 2012 and 2022, the number of transitional shelter beds statewide decreased from 2,715 to 947 – a 65% decline.

**i. Temporary vs. Permanent Beds.**

Emergency shelter and transitional shelter beds are considered temporary beds. Meanwhile, rapid rehousing (RRH) and permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds are considered long-term, permanent beds. The strategies adopted by the HICH generally prioritize adding permanent housing beds and reducing transitional shelter beds consistent with federal HUD policy.

**ii. Changes in federal policy contribute to reductions in transitional shelter beds.**

As mentioned earlier, the decrease in transitional shelter beds reflected a change in policy by HUD beginning in 2012, a significant change in prioritization for permanent housing, and a de-emphasis on transitional shelter. As a result, between 2012 and 2020, the number of individuals accessing transitional shelters declined nationwide by 53.2% (104,934 beds), aligning with a similar decrease in federal funding for transitional shelters.

Federal CoC funds for transitional shelter in Hawai`i declined from 2012, including a dramatic 65% reduction between 2014-2015.<sup>3</sup> The federal cuts were primarily to programs that served

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. CoC Dashboard Reports. Retrieved December 10, 2020, from <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-dashboard-reports/>.

targeted sub-populations, such as individuals in recovery for substance use, the severely mentally ill, individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and homeless youth. The 2015 federal CoC funding cuts impacted 303 individuals in transitional shelter programs. The Department of Human Services (DHS) provided one year of temporary funding for impacted programs through the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI). The temporary funds allowed affected organizations to develop a transition plan and make necessary changes to their programs to secure longer-term funding.

**iii. Increases in federal, state, and local funding contributed to increases in permanent beds.**

The increase in permanent beds between 2015 and 2019 correlates with State and local funding for Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs, such as Housing First. For example, State legislative appropriations in 2016 and 2018 allowed DHS to establish a statewide RRH program and scale the State Housing First program to Maui, Kauaʻi, and Hawaiʻi island.

**iv. Rapid Rehousing vs. Permanent Supportive Housing.**

The primary difference between RRH and PSH is the duration and intensity of rental subsidies and services. RRH provides short- to medium-term rental assistance and case management that may range from three months to 24 months. In contrast, PSH provides long-term case management and rental subsidies and targets households with higher levels of vulnerability and need.

**v. Programs not reflected in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC).**

The HIC does not include all permanent housing beds in its inventory. For example, the HIC does not include a senior housing project or public housing inventory without a specific designation for homeless individuals and families. In addition, the HIC does not reflect medical respite facilities or care home beds that provide short- or medium-term care for homeless individuals experiencing health-related concerns.

## **II. Overview of the Hawaiʻi Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)**

### **A. Background and Purpose**

The mission of the HICH is to prevent and end homelessness in Hawaiʻi. The HICH achieves this by coordinating governmental and private entities statewide, including federal, state, and local government; private foundations; the business community; the faith-based community; homeless service providers; and persons experiencing homelessness. [Section 346-381, HRS](#), outlines the specific duties and responsibilities of the HICH. The HICH is modeled after the [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#) and is the first state interagency council on homelessness formally established in statute.

The HICH has existed in various forms for over a decade; however, its specific duties and organizational structure have evolved as it transitioned from an informal entity to a formal advisory entity established in statute. In 2004, the HICH was an informal, voluntary council. In 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie signed Executive Order No. 11-21, establishing the HICH. In 2012, Act 105, SLH, 2012 codified the HICH in HRS. The Legislature amended the HICH statute in [Act 76, SLH, 2013](#); [Act 81, SLH, 2019](#); and most recently by Act 252, SLH 2022. The 2013 amendments expanded the HICH membership, and the 2019 amendment required the Governor to appoint the GCH without regard to Chapter 76, HRS. The recent 2022 amendment establishes the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) to, among other duties, provide administrative support to the HICH.

## **B. Membership and Quorum**

The GCH is the HICH chair. The HICH comprises 27 members, including a mixture of state government representatives, legislators, federal and county government representatives, homeless service providers, and private, faith-based, and business sectors. Certain HICH members are designated by county mayors, while others are designated or requested by the Governor. A majority of HICH members – 14 of 27– constitute a quorum to do business and validate any council decision or act. The current HICH membership is online at: <http://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich/>.

## **C. Organizational Structure and Staffing**

The SOHHS and HICH are attached to DHS for administrative purposes, and the SOHHS staff supports the HICH. The SOHHS includes the GCH and four staff that, among other duties, provide administrative support to the HICH and facilitate coordination and alignment of federal, State, and local efforts to address homelessness.

## **D. Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Address Homelessness**

In 2012, the HICH adopted a ten-year strategic plan (Ten-Year Plan) and framework to guide its efforts to address homelessness statewide. The 2012 strategic plan and framework aligned with [Opening Doors](#), the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness developed by the USICH. Specifically, the 2012 plan included four key goals:

1. Re-tool the homelessness crisis response system.
2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing.
3. Increase economic stability and self-sufficiency.
4. Improve health and stability.

In 2022, the HICH adopted a revised ten-year plan and strategic framework to end homelessness at its May 16, 2022, regular meeting. The revised plan is for the period from 2022 through 2032 and targets four specific areas to drive implementation:

1. *Building System Capacity and Strengthening Core Competencies.*

To function effectively, the system to end homelessness requires a knowledgeable and

qualified workforce that is innovative and can course-correct as needed. Strategies to meet this objective include building a shared understanding of system processes, creating competency-based practitioner profiles, expanding the use of peer specialists, and establishing forums for collaborative problem-solving.

2. *Strengthening System Leadership and Stakeholder Alignment.*

The actions and behaviors of leaders influence the system's effectiveness and require leadership among system stakeholders to align. Strategies in this area include establishing a shared understanding and language among system leaders, utilizing mediation services to resolve conflicts, building inter-jurisdictional partnerships, and establishing competency-based profiles for system leaders. This area will also focus on more substantial alignment between federal, State, and county governmental efforts.

3. *Investing in Organizational Support and Infrastructure.*

The system's organizational structure is critical, including the system's ability to collect and manage data, review systems performance, and provide effective oversight for financial resources. Ideally, the infrastructure should support partnerships between system stakeholders, including providing opportunities to partner with individuals with lived experience of homelessness, faith-based providers, and the private business sector. Strategies in this area include developing a way to aggregate data from multiple systems, developing technology solutions for real-time shelter and housing inventories, fiscal mapping data from different funding streams, refining service contracts across jurisdictions, and aligning performance metrics for contracts.

4. *Sustaining and Scaling Housing-focused Approaches.*

The solution to homelessness is housing. An effective homelessness response system should include strategies that support the development of low-income and affordable housing and services that support rapid connection to housing and provide support for stable transitions to housing. Strategies in this area include attending to and reinvesting in the State Affordable Rental Housing Plan that embraces households at all income levels, increasing permanent supportive housing finance strategies, scaling both deep and shallow rental subsidies, building partnerships across government to scale housing opportunities, reviewing policies and practices in government-funded affordable housing, and conducting a system-wide inventory of available land and properties to repurposed for housing. This area will also focus on strengthening community and interpersonal connections through communal design, shared gathering spaces, and scaling systems-level landlord engagement and incentive programs.

The revised ten-year plan builds upon lessons learned from the implementation of the 2012 ten-year plan, as well as initial findings from the evaluation of the Ohana Zones pilot program. The plan's focus is to strengthen the overall system to address homelessness by focusing on implementation drivers to accelerate change and the development of a robust housing-focused system. By focusing on drivers that expand system capacity, the plan will result in improved outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness, including increased rates of housing placement and reductions in the length of time spent in shelters and other homeless programs.

To measure the progress in implementing the revised ten-year plan, the community will focus on indicators that the homelessness system is functioning effectively and where homelessness is a *rare, brief, and non-recurring* experience. In addition, the plan will look at metrics related to housing inventory. Specific performance metrics are detailed in the following section of this report.

The full text of the original 2012 and new 2022 ten-year plans can be found online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich>.

### **E. HICH Systems Performance Metrics**

The HICH evaluates progress in addressing homelessness through regular review of four critical systems performance metrics, which HICH adopted in 2018 and reviews regularly at its quarterly meetings. Specifically, the identified metrics evaluate the homelessness system's effectiveness in ensuring that homelessness is *rare, brief, and non-recurring*. The four metrics adopted and reviewed by the council are:

- The number of individuals experiencing homelessness;
- The number of available beds explicitly targeted for individuals experiencing homelessness, including shelter and housing beds;
- The number of individuals placed into permanent housing by homeless service providers; and
- The length of time an individual spends enrolled in emergency and transitional shelter programs.

Metrics are updated quarterly and are posted online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>.

Since 2016, there has been an *overall reduction* in homeless individuals statewide and increased permanent housing beds for persons experiencing homelessness. Notably, the number of permanent housing beds (e.g., rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, etc.) reported in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Inventory Count more than doubled between 2016 and 2022 – from 2,295 beds to 4,984 beds. During this same period, the statewide PIT count decreased from 7,921 to 5,923 individuals.

While there have been gains in permanent housing inventory, shelter inventory has been declining. On the other hand, the number of emergency shelter beds today is more than in 2016, but with the pandemic, the number of emergency shelter beds declined 24% between

2021 and 2022 – a reduction from 2,337 beds to 1,778 beds. Additionally, homeless individuals stay longer in emergency and transitional shelters, and continued efforts are needed to accelerate permanent housing placement and reduce the length of stay in homeless programs.

Due to the tight housing inventory, between 2021 and 2022, the percentage of exits to permanent housing declined to 36%. Last year's exits were the lowest the percentage of exits to housing has been since 2017, when it was 29%. This significant decline follows the period of 2016-2021 that had consistent increases of individuals exiting homeless programs to permanent housing, from one-third to over half of all exits.

### **III. Key Actions of the HICH**

#### **A. Implementation of a Community Awareness and Communications Plan.**

According to section 346-381(b)(8), HRS, a key responsibility of the HICH is to “advise on the development and implementation of a public education program on homelessness in Hawai‘i, and disseminate information including data and best practices.” In 2021, HICH members implemented a comprehensive communications plan formally adopted by the council in December 2020. The communications plan includes facilitating monthly webinars for government partners and homeless service providers and developing videos, infographics, and interactive dashboards to promote programs and share data related to homelessness. The HICH continued and further expanded this plan in 2022, described below.

##### **i. Monthly Webinar Series: Connecting on the Road to Home.**

Throughout 2022, monthly webinars were convened on the fourth Monday of each month from 12:00-1:00 p.m. HST. Each webinar featured at least one member organization from each CoC to share information about homeless programs operating in different parts of the State. The average audience for each webinar ranges between 50 to 100 participants and, on occasion, has exceeded 150 participants. The webinars have also been converted into video and shared on local public access television, such as ‘Olelo, to reach a broader audience. Topics in 2022 included medical respite and mobile medical programs, faith-based partnerships, local strategies to address affordable housing, utilization of Medicaid for tenancy supports, and voter registration for people experiencing homelessness. A complete list of webinar topics and recordings of each webinar is posted online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/monthly-webinars>.

##### **ii. Presentations to Community Organizations and Stakeholder Groups.**

GCH staff partnered with HICH members from the two CoCs to conduct targeted presentations on HICH policy priorities, such as increasing landlord engagement and scaling supportive housing. Attending groups included the Catholic Diocese of Hawai‘i, Lions Clubs, Faith Action (formerly known as FACE), PHOCUSED, Waikiki Business Improvement District Association, Aloha United Way member agencies, and Interfaith Communities in Action. The presentations shared information about specific policies and the role of the CoCs. In addition to providing

education and increased awareness, the presentations were a way to support the CoCs in expanding their membership to include faith-based and business groups.

### **iii. Frontline Outreach-Shelter Provider Meetings.**

A component of the HICH communications plan is continued education for homeless service providers, including frontline staff. GCH staff and other HICH members convened frontline provider meetings twice monthly to ensure training and information-sharing opportunities. They included both homeless outreach and shelter providers. Examples of training provided at the meetings include training on landlord-tenant code and eviction prevention resources, how to navigate SNAP and First-to-Work employment programs, strategies related to individuals with pets and service animals, an overview of Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS), and services for individuals lacking decisional capacity. The frontline provider meetings also served as a forum to share updates regarding new programs or changes to the process for existing programs. HICH members actively participated in these meetings, including the City & County of Honolulu, DOE, DHS, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). The last frontline outreach-shelter provider meeting for 2022 was on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

### **iv. Development of infographics and other educational materials.**

The GCH staff worked with HICH members to produce various written and recorded materials to increase public awareness and education related to homeless programs and policies. In addition, they developed infographics that included an overview of the State legislative process and the Hawai'i capitol website, as well as navigation guides for the County Council website in all four counties.

GCH staff also worked to author a series of policy briefs on the following topics:

- Rental Housing Assistance Discrimination (February 4, 2022)
- Fiscal Mapping of Government-Funded Homeless Services (February 17, 2022)
- Regulation of Rental Application Screening Fees for Potential Tenants (March 8, 2022)
- Medicaid Community Integration Services (May 25, 2022)
- Landlord Supports and Incentives for Participation in Rental Assistance Programs (June 16, 2022)
- The Impact of American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Homeless Services (October 26, 2022)

The GCH staff and HICH members also produced written and recorded materials to increase understanding regarding specific topics. For example, staff highlighted specific supportive housing projects throughout the State, such as the Kumuwai supportive housing for seniors (O`ahu), Huliau supportive housing for families (Maui), Kealaula at Pua Loke supportive housing for families (Kaua`i), and the Sacred Hearts housing development (Hawai`i island) for seniors.

Additionally, staff interviewed homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Materials are shared with providers and government partners through the CoCs and posted online on the State Homeless Initiative website.

### **B. Fiscal mapping of federal, State, and local funding sources.**

In November 2019, HICH members established a Homeless Funders Group, which meets monthly and includes representation from DHS, DOH, HUD, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the two CoCs, and the four counties. As a follow-up to the work of the Homeless Funders Group, GCH staff developed and presented a Homeless Fiscal Map to the HICH in December 2020, which maps out funding sources from federal, State, and local governments. GCH staff updated the map through 2021 and recently revised it in September 2022. In addition, an interactive dashboard is posted online at <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>.

In addition, GCH facilitated discussions between HICH members to share information about payment structure and methodology for each funder, including whether payments are provided in advance, based on a capitated rate, or reimbursed. GCH intends the fiscal map to be a tool to inform future policy and programmatic decisions, including identifying priority areas for funding to the CoCs and the counties administering direct federal funding for homeless programs.

### **C. Facilitation of Supportive Housing Work Group.**

The HICH and GCH staff began facilitating a Supportive Housing Work Group in June 2022 in coordination with State Representative Nadine Nakamura, Chair of the House Committee on Housing. The work group included over 60 participants from diverse stakeholders, including the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA), nonprofit housing developers, nonprofit social service providers, and people with lived experience of homelessness.

From June 2022 through November 2022, the work group met monthly to hear from guest speakers on several topics, including community engagement strategies to combat NIMBY-ism, Project Based Vouchers, and best practices for development. In addition to the monthly work group meetings, SOHHS<sup>4</sup> discussed with leaders from specific sub-populations (e.g., elderly, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, etc.) to better understand more population-specific information, such as data available, special considerations and needs for each group, and funding sources particular to each population.

The workgroup had four broad goals

1. Establish a broad stakeholder group to advocate on the topic of supportive housing.

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<sup>4</sup> Governor Ige signed Act 252, SLH 2022, on July 7, 2022, creating the State Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS).

2. Increase the group’s understanding of the need, components of supportive housing resources available, intricacies to consider for different sub-populations, and strategies that have worked on a small scale locally and on a larger scale in other jurisdictions.
3. Increase communication and understanding of the value and need for supportive housing.
4. Summarize learnings from the work group convening in a case statement, with clear recommendations for developing and scaling supportive housing in Hawai`i.

Following its final meeting in November 2022, the work group identified five key recommendations for consideration:

1. Prioritize supportive housing development through a mix of strategies, including creating designated capital funding for eligible populations and prioritizing supportive housing through the State’s Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP).
2. Create dedicated funding sources for supportive housing, including ongoing rental and services costs to ensure long-term project stability.
3. Work with the State and County Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to ensure adequate capacity to administer federal Project-Based Vouchers to create more supportive housing opportunities.
4. Invest in ongoing data collection and modeling projections of supportive housing needs across all sub-groups to better understand and predict community needs.
5. Incentivize consultation with the target populations, service providers, property managers, and neighbors to create successful projects that best serve residents and their neighborhoods.

The final case statement and recommendations of the workgroup are online at <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov>.

#### **D. Evaluation of Non-Traditional Housing for People Exiting Homelessness.**

From June 2022 through July 2022, the GCH/SOHHS hosted a Housing and Community Development Fellow from the Harvard Kennedy School Joint Center for Housing Studies. A key responsibility of the fellow was conducting and authoring an evaluation of 11 different non-traditional housing projects for people exiting homelessness, including projects supported by the Ohana Zones pilot program. The report defined “non-traditional” as projects that fall outside the traditional purview of housing builds and keep development costs low. Examples of non-traditional housing include prefabricated builds, modular builds, tiny homes, repurposed buildings, and traditional builds converted to Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units. In addition, the report evaluates programs developed under Governor Ige’s emergency proclamations to address homelessness and were provided waivers from State and local government regulations to expedite building processes.

The Harvard fellow, supported by SOHHS staff, conducted interviews and site visits with developers, property managers, and service providers to identify lessons learned from using non-traditional housing builds. Additionally, the report includes feedback from the interviews and site visits to identify best practices for similar projects moving forward. The evaluation of Non-Traditional Housing for People Exiting Homelessness highlighted challenges and successes in three main areas:

1. Development.
2. Operations.
3. Services.

The report summarizes the primary benefits of non-traditional builds: a reduction in upfront development costs and a shortened timeframe for development. However, while expedited development was beneficial, the evaluation found that emergency waivers from regulation also resulted in unintended consequences for some projects, such as exclusion from federal and State operating subsidies. In addition, several projects evaluated in the report experienced high monthly upkeep costs and deficits in funding to subsidize rental costs and supportive services that could threaten the long-term viability of these projects.

The report made the following recommendations for each of the three areas below:

1. *Development.*
  - a. Emphasize the importance of permanent legislative methods to expedite the development of projects addressing homelessness and affordable housing.
  - b. Prioritize building with materials and install locally available appliances to reduce ongoing repair and maintenance costs.
  - c. Create contractual incentives to prioritize developers who consult the target population the project will service, residents, property managers, and service providers from the onset of the development process.
2. *Operations.*
  - a. Ensure the projects have a source of ongoing funding to cover essential operations.
  - b. Include a contingency maintenance fund in project operations contracts, so the upkeep costs do not solely fall on property managers.
  - c. Consider partnerships with other agencies to share expertise and risks.
3. *Services.*
  - a. Identify funding sources to diversify revenue streams, including Medicaid Community Integration Services (CIS).
  - b. Continue and expand targeted services for specific sub-populations of homelessness, including families with children, survivors of domestic violence, the elderly, and individuals with a diagnosed behavioral health condition.

SOHHS presented the full report findings with the HICH at its regular meetings in July 2022 and September 2022.

The report and recommendations are available online at: [Non-Traditional-Housing-for-People-Exiting-Homelessness-FINAL-9-15-22-Rev.pdf \(hawaii.gov\)](#).

### **E. Other Efforts to Expand Community Housing Options.**

The HICH also continued its work to expand community housing options through initiatives such as the Ohana Zones pilot program, Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), and continued partnerships with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

#### *Ohana Zones Pilot Program.*

The Ohana Zones pilot program has served 6,439 homeless individuals from its inception in 2018 through September 30, 2022, including 1,622 individuals (25%) placed into permanent housing. Ohana Zones pilot program projects that added new housing inventory for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness included:

- *Kealaula at Pua Loke*, a 29-unit PSH on Kaua`i for homeless families with minor children;
- *Kumuwai*, a 20-unit PSH on O`ahu for seniors aged 55 and older;
- *Hale Maluhia*, a 20-unit PSH on O`ahu for survivors of domestic violence and their families;
- *Huliau*, a 12-unit site-based PSH on Maui for homeless families with minor children; and
- *Kamaoku Kauhale*, a 37-unit site-based PSH on O`ahu for homeless single adults.

Act 235, SLH 2022, appropriated \$15 million in additional general funds for the Ohana Zones pilot program. The SOHHS consulted with the counties to contract the funding to sustain some of the housing projects listed above, expand supportive housing on Kaua`i, and add new programs on Hawai`i island.

#### *Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs).*

Through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Hawai`i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and the four counties were awarded a total of 708 EHVs statewide, with the following breakdown by geographic area:

- *O`AHU*: 494 total, including 182 administered by HPHA and 312 by the City and County of Honolulu.
- *KAUA`I*: 28 administered by the Kaua`i County Housing Agency.
- *MAUI*: 76 administered by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.
- *HAWAI`I*: 110 administered by the Office of Housing and Community Development.

The agencies will target EHVs to serve households currently experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, recently homeless, or households fleeing domestic violence or trafficking. For

example, the "recently homeless" category includes households enrolled in a supportive housing program, such as Housing First or Rapid Rehousing. HUD required HPHA and the four counties to execute Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with the CoC to ensure that agencies have a set process to reach homeless households. The entities executed MOAs in July 2021.

At its September 2022 regular meeting, the HICH received presentations from Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap regarding implementing the EHV program. Both CoCs reported that the EHV's are being leased up at a steady rate. As of November 28, 2022, 45.34% (321 EHV's) of the vouchers are fully leased, an additional 116 EHV's have been issued, and households are actively searching for a rental unit.

On O`ahu, SOHHS and the City & County of Honolulu partnered with HPHA and Partners in Care to transition individuals from its Ohana Zones pilot program PSH projects to EHV's. As of October 31, 2022, 32 households from Ohana Zones projects applied for EHV's. Of those that applied, 22 households fully leased up in a new unit, one household had ported their EHV to another community, and one is actively searching for a rental unit. Referring households from the Ohana Zones projects to EHV's enables the Ohana Zones pilot projects to free up State and City & County funded units and serve additional households.

#### *Partnerships to Expand Housing Options for Native Hawaiian Beneficiaries.*

DHHL has continued to update the HICH on its efforts to convert a two-story facility at Kalaeloa on O`ahu into transitional housing for native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness. DHHL is currently in the environmental review phase and plans to utilize federal Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) funds to support operations at the facility. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the transitional housing project was released in late 2022, and a contract is anticipated to be signed by the end of December 2022. Construction for the transitional housing facility will begin in the first half of 2023, with a projected completion date of December 2023. When construction is complete, DHHL will release another RFP to contract management of the facility with a service provider with experience managing transitional housing for homeless individuals.

DHHL began efforts to develop the transitional housing project after completing a data-sharing project with Partners in Care in 2019 that indicated over 100 individuals encountered on O`ahu during the PIT count were also native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the DHHL waitlist. In the summer of 2022, DHHL executed a memorandum of agreement with Bridging the Gap and identified native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness in Maui, Hawai`i, and Kaua`i counties.

#### **F. Looking Forward: Adoption of 2023 Policy Priorities.**

At its November 2022 regular meeting, the HICH formally adopted the following broad policy priorities for advocacy during the 2023 legislative session:

- *Increase housing stock, including supportive housing and non-traditional housing, such as Kauhale, for people experiencing homelessness.*

This policy includes support for expanding existing housing inventory and adding new inventory, including using non-traditional housing builds such as tiny homes or Kauhale-style housing. In addition, this would include support for financing mechanisms (e.g., Rental Housing Revolving Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, etc.) and adopting policies to streamline or expedite county permitting and other processes to accelerate housing development.

- *Keep people housed and sustain existing services, including maintaining funding for core homeless services.*

This policy includes sustaining current funding levels for core services, such as permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, homeless outreach, civil legal services, and family assessment centers. Additionally, this policy supports the expansion of efforts such as Community Integration Services, which leverages Medicaid funding for pre-tenancy and tenancy support services that keep people housed and assist in moving people experiencing homelessness into housing.

- *Provide quality services for individuals, especially those with the most urgent needs, by scaling services, increasing access to programs for higher needs populations, and paying workers a living wage.*

This policy includes support for programs that address individuals with severe or acute levels of need, including the severely mentally ill, those experiencing chronic substance use disorders, and individuals with physical disabilities who need assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).

GCH and the HICH identified policy priorities after feedback and ongoing discussion with advocates from the two CoCs – Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap. The priorities aim to address the needs of individuals currently experiencing homelessness and the need for affordable and low-barrier housing options. The policies are also broad and include topics likely to surface during the 2023 legislative session and at the County level.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The work to end homelessness in Hawai'i continued throughout 2022, despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This past year, the HICH revised the ten-year plan to end homelessness and adopted the new plan at its May 2022 regular meeting. The new plan targets four key areas that are critical to addressing continued improvement:

1. Building System Capacity and Strengthening Core Competencies.
2. Strengthening System Leadership and Stakeholder Alignment.
3. Investing in Organizational Support and Infrastructure.
4. Sustaining and Scaling Housing-Focused Approaches.

The continued focus on permanent housing solutions is critical, especially as recent PIT count data indicates increases in unsheltered homelessness across all counties and exits to permanent housing are beginning to decline. Because there is a high demand for housing and

limited resources, it is critical State, counties, communities, and private entities explore non-traditional models and consider resources for housing development and subsidies to be scaled appropriately to meet community needs.

In 2022, the efforts of the HICH reflected the need to look at different housing models and identify potential financing to bring these models to scale. The HICH evaluated 11 different non-traditional models of housing for people exiting homelessness and identified key lessons learned. In addition, the HICH and SOHHS staff facilitated a Supporting Housing Work Group and authored a report outlining key recommendations to develop and sustain supportive housing for a diverse mix of sub-populations, including people experiencing homelessness.

The HICH also updated its fiscal map of federal, State, and local funding sources for homelessness and convened statewide advocacy meetings for providers and other stakeholders. Building upon the information generated from the fiscal map and feedback provided at advocacy meetings with the CoCs and other partners, the HICH adopted the following priorities for 2023:

1. Increase housing stock, including supportive housing and non-traditional housing, such as Kauhale, for people experiencing homelessness.
2. Keep people housed and sustain existing services, including maintaining funding for core homeless services.
3. Provide quality services for individuals, especially those with the most urgent needs, by scaling services, increasing access to programs for higher needs populations, and paying workers a living wage.

As a cross-sector advisory body that spans federal, State, local governments, and the private sector, the HICH has vast potential to change the trajectory of homelessness in a positive direction. Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, the recent advocacy priorities adopted to set a strong foundation for continued declines in homelessness and increased housing inventory in the years to come.

For more information on state efforts to address homelessness, please contact the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness at [gov.homelessness@Hawaii.gov](mailto:gov.homelessness@Hawaii.gov).

**PART II:**  
**ACT 252 (SLH 2022)**  
**STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

Act 252 (SLH 2022) requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the work of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). This report highlights the following:

- Performance metrics relating to reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the State;
- Performance metrics relating to housing and services inventory gaps, including but not limited to the number of persons experiencing homelessness serviced and placed into permanent housing and the cost per person served; and
- Performance metrics to evaluate the State's performance on homeless services, housing, care coordination, and other needed services to end homelessness in the State.

The SOHHS adopted the same four key performance metrics as the HICH, which are:

- The number of individuals experiencing homelessness according to the annual statewide PIT count of persons experiencing homelessness;
- The number of available beds counted in the statewide HIC targeted explicitly for individuals experiencing homelessness, including shelter and housing beds;
- The number and percentage of individuals placed into permanent housing by homeless service providers as captured in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) databases for O`ahu and the neighbor islands; and
- The length of time an individual spends enrolled in emergency and transitional shelter programs as captured in the HMIS databases for O`ahu and the balance of State.

See the overview of the four key performance metrics in Part I of this report.

Regarding performance metrics relating to service inventory gaps, the SOHHS also reviews data reflected in the HICH fiscal map of federal, State, and local funding sources for homeless services. GCH staff first developed the fiscal map in 2019 and continue to update it annually. Users can filter the fiscal map data by funding source, program type, and geographic area.

The HICH and SOHHS performance metrics and fiscal map are available online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>.

The SOHHS notes that the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) is also statutorily mandated by section 201H-6, HRS, to "develop and maintain a housing advocacy and information system to aid the corporation in meeting the needs and demands of

housing consumers.” Among other things, the purposes of the housing advocacy and information system are: to identify affordable housing projects, the State and federal public housing projects identified by HPHA, HUD Region 9 federally supported and privately managed housing projects, and State and county land available for development. Looking forward, SOHHS has an opportunity to utilize data from the HHFDC advocacy and information system to inform potential opportunities for housing solutions, including the development of low-income housing for people exiting from homelessness.

## KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

**Affordable housing**—Generally, housing is considered "affordable" when the cost is less than 30 percent of a household's income. Conversely, when housing costs exceed this threshold, a household is 'housing-cost burdened.'<sup>5</sup> With an estimated 57.5% of renters paying more than one-third of their income to rent, Hawai`i has the second-highest number of cost-burdened renters in the nation.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the households with the most severe lack of affordable housing are extremely low-income, earning less than 30% Area Median Income (AMI).

**Chronically Homeless**—A chronically homeless person is a homeless person with a disability who has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months or has been homeless on at least four separate occasions over the past three years. The combined length of time in those four or more occasions must be twelve months or more, as specified in the Final Rule on the definition of "chronically homeless" issued by HUD in December 2015.<sup>6</sup> A chronically homeless family is a family with an adult head of household who meets the definition of a chronically homeless person.

**Continuum of Care (CoC)**—A CoC is a regional or local planning body coordinating HUD funding for housing and services for homeless families and persons. In Hawai`i, there are two CoCs – Partners in Care for the island of O`ahu and Bridging the Gap for the other counties. Each CoC includes government agencies, homeless service providers, funders, and other interested community members. Each CoC is responsible for submitting an annual application for federal homeless assistance funds. The federal funding for homeless services is also known as "CoC funds." In addition to applying for funding, the CoC administers the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count of the homeless population and the annual Housing Inventory Count (HIC). These counts provide an overview of the State of homelessness in a CoC.

**Coordinated entry system (CES)**—the Coordinated Entry System ensures that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to homeless resources. Based on their strengths and needs, they are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance. A coordinated entry system helps communities prioritize housing and homeless assistance based on a homeless person's vulnerability and the severity of their needs. People who need assistance the most can receive it promptly. Federal law requires that CoCs establish a coordinated entry system.

**Emergency shelter**—An emergency shelter generally is a facility with overnight sleeping accommodations that provides short-term, temporary shelter for homeless persons and does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement. Emergency shelters differ from transitional housing, which typically allows a maximum stay of up to 24 months.

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<sup>5</sup> Corporation for Enterprise Development. *Assets & Opportunity Score Card, Housing Cost Burden – Renters*. Available at: <http://scorecard.assetsandopportunity.org/latest/measure/housing-cost-burden-renters>. Accessed on April 25, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining "Chronically homeless." 80 Fed. Reg. 75791. (December 4, 2015).

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)—The HMIS is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on housing and services for homeless persons, families, and persons at immediate risk of homelessness. Each CoC—Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap maintains its HMIS.

Homeless outreach—Homeless outreach includes meeting homeless persons on streets, sidewalks, or in remote rural areas, including beaches and valleys. Outreach providers assist with completing program applications, determining program eligibility, housing search, placement, and working with the person to obtain identification and other vital documents (e.g., birth certificate or social security card).

Housing First—Housing First is a philosophy that provides homeless people with housing quickly and then provides services as needed. In a Housing First approach, there is an immediate and primary focus on accessing and sustaining permanent housing for all homeless populations. In addition to the Housing First philosophy, the term refers to specific PSH programs operated by the State and the City and County of Honolulu. The State's and City's Housing First programs adopt the philosophy of targeting chronically homeless households for services.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)—The HIC is a point-in-time inventory of programs within a Continuum of Care that provides beds and units dedicated to serving homeless persons. The HIC includes beds for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing beds.

Permanent supportive housing (PSH)—PSH is a service delivery model that combines low-barrier affordable housing, health care, and supportive services to enable homeless persons to attain and maintain permanent housing. PSH programs typically target chronically homeless persons or homeless persons who experience multiple housing barriers and cannot maintain housing stability without supportive services. As a result, PSH programs positively impact housing status and result in cost savings to various public service systems, including health care. The State and City Housing First programs that target chronically homeless persons are examples of PSH programs.

Point-In-Time (PIT) Count—A PIT Count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community experiencing homelessness. The PIT Count includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations. HUD requires that communities receiving federal funds for homeless services conduct a PIT Count at least every other year. HUD also requires communities to identify whether a person is an individual, a member of a family unit, or an unaccompanied youth under 18. Also, communities must determine if a person is chronically homeless.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)—Rapid Rehousing prioritizes moving a family or individual experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible. The duration of financial assistance provided in a rapid rehousing program can include either short-term (up to 3 months) or medium-term (6 months to 24 months) support. In general, the core components of Rapid Rehousing are housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and case management.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program—"Section 8" refers to Section 8 of the Housing Act, which authorizes the payment of rental housing assistance to private landlords for low-income households. A common form of Section 8 assistance is the HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides direct rental payment to the landlord. Typically, a Section 8 voucher recipient will pay one-third of their income towards rent, with the remaining balance of rent provided by the Section 8 voucher payment. A Section 8 voucher typically provides a full rental subsidy instead of a shallow one.

Project-Based Voucher (PBV) – PBVs are part of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program and provide place-based subsidies to assist households in affording housing in the private market.

Supportive Housing – Supportive Housing is affordable housing with wraparound supportive services for vulnerable individuals and families, including homeless individuals, families, and other sub-populations with acute needs.

Transitional Shelter—Transitional shelter, also referred to as transitional housing, is designed to provide homeless persons and families with temporary stability and support to move to and maintain permanent housing eventually. Transitional housing is generally for up to 24 months with accompanying supportive services.