

Testimony 1187
Netra Halperin
March 2, 2009
Finance committee

LATE

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro members of the committee,

The purpose of the return to home program is to assist homeless people from other states voluntarily return to home. This isn't meant to solve the entire homeless problem in the state of Hawaii, only the specific population that came to Hawaii with dreams of Hula girls serving Mai Thais on the beach and has then encountered the harsh reality of homelessness in Hawaii. It is meant for the out-of-state homeless that already have family, friends or other support services in the place where they are requesting transport to.

This program will work with homeless services, local airlines and charter companies to obtain tickets. It will get participants ready for travel and also follow up one month later. This will cost between \$400 and \$600 per person.

On the other hand it now costs the State of Hawaii between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year, per homeless person in services, which include extensive hospital stays and medical care, shelter, food and social and other support services. This doesn't even include children incurring developmental delays with later costs.

This bill would save the state of Hawaii thousands of dollars and much un-necessary suffering.