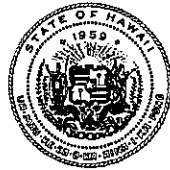


SB896

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.
Report Title:	Homeless Job Training Program; DHS; Appropriation
Description:	Establishes a homeless job training program to be managed by the department of human services. (\$)
Companion:	
Package:	Housing and Homeless
Current Referral:	HMS/JDL, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, FUKUNAGA, GALUTERIA, English, Wakai



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

February 14, 2011

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Tuesday, February 15
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Mila Kahaanui, Executive Director
Office of Community Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTENT

Re: S.B.896-Relating to the Homeless

Good Morning Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Hee, and committee members. My name is Mila Kaahanui of the Office of Community Services (OCS), an agency administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of the intent of this measure.

The Office of Community Services is charged, in part under HRS 371-K-1, to "improve the delivery of services to disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants." Additionally, under HRS 371-K-3, OCS is charged to "Assess the policies and practices of public and private agencies impaction on the disadvantaged and conduct advocacy efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants."

OCS is one of the agencies providing job training to several different demographics in the State of Hawaii. We have full confidence in the ability of our other Departments to carry out a Job training program, and would appreciate coordination in this effort. However, although not specifically nominating OCS as the correct agency for this program, we believe the DLIR has access to a greater selection of placement tools than the Department of Human Services (DHS).

We are well aware of DHS' success in the area of Federally-funded subsidized employment, as well as their administration of the Homeless Division under the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division. However, job readiness is a trait that is developed at a much higher level than the services used to stabilize the individual which DHS implements so well.

Often, these services are coordinated at the provider level. Providers will use state contracts from, for example, DHS-homeless division and Department of Health (DOH)-Adult Mental Health Division to stabilize an individual or family. Once the clients are beyond crisis-level, contracts from, for example, OCS can kick in to provide training for these highly challenged clients. Fragmentation of our existing funds would create more procurement for these services, require more State personnel and/or time, and may cause providers to have to separate their homeless job trainees from their non-homeless job trainees for reporting and funding purposes. This bill would also not preclude our services from training homeless individuals, as is the case today, creating redundancies.

We would also like to mention our sister branches and the access they have to Federal funds. Workforce Investment Act funds flow through such divisions as the Workforce Development Division and the Workforce Development Council. DLIR has also received additional grants to train for specific careers in shortage categories and emerging fields, such as nursing, medical support staff, and green job training.

In summary, we support the intent of the measure to increase services to the homeless. We ask the joint committee to support programs in existence already serving our homeless, and also would request the joint committee to query the non-profit community to gather opinions on whether or not creating another program would best serve implementation of the services. OCS sees the value in non-profits diversifying their funding streams, and realizes there is a fine balance with workload imposed by each individual funder's reporting requirements. Finally, we ask the joint committee to consider the opportunities and expertise each Department can provide. After these considerations, we defer to the Legislature and the Governor to decide the appropriateness of this program's creation, as well as its final home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dear Senators and Committee Members,

I am writing to support Senate Bill 896, Homeless Job Training Program. As the Program Manager for Partners in Development Foundation's Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program, I have had the privilege of working in partnership with community and government agencies to provide educational and work readiness services for homeless families on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu for the past four years.

My experience working with homeless families and various community partners has provided a unique perspective to the needs of homeless adults and the goal of sustainability. Although much has been done to provide educational and social support for these families, more can be done to strengthen and support homeless adults for workforce success and economic sustainability, which is why I fully endorse and support Senate Bill 896.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

Mahalo A Nui Loa,

Danny Goya, Program Manager
Partners in Development Foundation

To: Senate JDL & HMS Committee Members
Subject: SB 896
From: Errol E. Lee
Date: February 14, 2011

Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Errol Lee. I am of Native Hawaiian ancestry and a lifelong resident of the Waianae Coast. In addition, I've had the privilege of working closely with families living in poverty on the Leeward Coast as the Lead Outreach Coordinator of the Partners in Development Foundation's Ka Pa'alana Traveling Preschool and Homeless Outreach Services Program since January, 2007.

In the capacity of my work, I have seen the need for individuals to receive opportunities for employment as they work toward self-sufficiency. According to a survey taken on Leeward Coast beaches that our program co-coordinated with other local service providers, need for employment and job training was among the top five barriers that unsheltered individuals were experiencing.

In 2008, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness prepared a revised *Plan to End Homelessness in Hawai'i*. On page six, paragraph one states, "*The intended objectives for the Policy Academy process included assisting state and local policymakers to develop an Action Plan intended to improve access to mainstream health and human services and employment opportunities that are coordinated with housing for persons who are experiencing homelessness.*"

I am in strong support for the passing of SB 896.

With sincere regards,

Errol E. Lee, Lead Outreach Coordinator
Partners in Development Foundation

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 7:03 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: ayanohn@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB896 on 2/15/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/JDL 2/15/2011 1:15:00 PM SB896

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ayano Nishimura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ayanohn@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/13/2011

Comments:

I support SB896. Homeless population is increasing in Hawaii. The cost for their service is also increasing. It is a great idea to generate some funds by helping homeless people and creating them job opportunities.

I strongly support the idea that the money they earned by participating in the program is going to be spent on their rent.