

JAN 17 2014

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to prohibit agencies  
2 that provide food, shelter, and other services to homeless  
3 individuals from requesting or requiring those individuals to  
4 purchase goods on their electronic benefits transfer system or  
5 other public assistance programs for the benefit of the  
6 facility, organization, or agency in exchange for receiving the  
7 services provided by the agency.

8           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately  
10 designated and to read as follows:

11           "§346- Prohibited conduct. (a) No person, provider  
12 agency, or employee of a provider agency shall knowingly  
13 request, require, or aid or abet another person in requesting or  
14 requiring a homeless individual to purchase:

15           (1) Goods or any food commodity under a food distribution  
16           program; or



1       (2) Any food stamp or coupon under a food stamp plan or an  
 2           electronic benefits transfer card or similar debit  
 3           card type device,  
 4 in exchange for receiving services provided by the homeless  
 5 service provider agency.

6       (b) A violation of subsection (a) by a person, a provider  
 7 agency, or an employee of a provider agency shall provide  
 8 grounds for the department to bar that person or provider agency  
 9 from further contracts for programs related to providing  
 10 services to homeless individuals."

11       SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
 12 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
 13 begun before its effective date.

14       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Sen. Mercedes K.*

**By Request**



# S.B. NO. 2286

**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Electronic Benefits Transfer System; Provider Agencies

**Description:**

Prohibits provider agencies from requesting or requiring homeless individuals from purchasing goods or food commodity under a food distribution program or any food stamp or coupon under a food stamp plan, or an EBT card or similar debit card type device, in exchange for services.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

