

SB2286

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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.

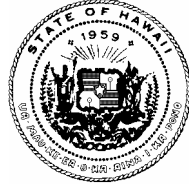
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): KIM (Introduced by request of another party)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2286– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Saturday, January 25, 2014; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229; State Capitol

PURPOSE: S.B. 2286 proposes to prohibit 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.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the overall intent of this bill to prohibit homeless service providers from requesting or requiring their clients to pay for benefits using EBT or other means in exchange for receiving services.

Under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations, emergency shelters are defined as a homeless facility designed to provide temporary shelter and appropriate and available services to homeless families or individuals for up to six weeks, characterized by short term (often nightly) walk-in nature, with the option to enter into a case plan and community living quarters. Transitional shelters do not qualify as homeless shelters.

The Department is not aware of any current State-contracted homeless provider making requests or requiring clients to utilize EBT (or similar) benefits to purchase

goods for the benefit of the facility, organization or agency in exchange for services. Moreover, the Department's funding of homeless shelters allows for purchase of food and provision of a minimum of one meal per day at emergency shelters. This legislation would address those agencies/service providers who are not currently contracted with the State; however, responsibility for enforcement of the proposed regulation for these agencies is unclear.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2542 RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE CONVEYANCE TAX COLLECTIONS TO THE RENTAL HOUSING TRUST FUND, SB 2267 RELATING TO HOUSING, SB 2442 RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SB 2266 RELATING TO HOUSING, SB 2265 RELATING TO HOUSING, SB 2545 RELATING TO UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S SAVING ACCOUNTS, SB 2544 RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM, SB 2534 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS, SB 2337 RELATING TO LOW-INCOME HOUSING, SB 2395 RELATING TO HOMELESS, AND SB 2286 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

January 25, 2014

10:00 AM

Conference Rm. 229

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support Senate Bills 2542, 2267, 2442, 2266, 2265, 2545, 2544, 2534, 2337, 2395, and 2286, all of which are part of the Housing and Homeless Legislative Package.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for five Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Our Neighborhood Place programs are unique among CAN prevention programs for two reasons: (1) they are community-based and are located in communities where families are at high risk of child abuse and neglect; and (2) they are the only programs where children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect can get services without a referral or appointment and by simply knocking on the door.

We find that one of the biggest risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that they are homeless, homeless-at-risk, or living in unstable, overcrowded living conditions. In many cases, these families are also mired in other socioeconomic problems, such as unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, and chronic health problems, but studies show that the key to helping these families break the cycle of poverty starts with providing them stable housing. Without stable housing, these families live transient lifestyles that make it hard for them to focus on problem-solving. It also makes it extremely difficult for prevention/diversion programs such as our Neighborhood Places to help provide the sustained, support services these families need to break the cycle, because they are always on the move.

If we are going to break the cycle and prevent the generational neglect of children within these families, we need to support housing programs and the development of low-income and affordable housing such as those proposed in the Senate Bills that are before this Committee today.

Aloha and Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

SB2286

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for HMS on Jan 25, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair, Senate HMS COmmittee Right Honorable Members I support SB 2286 Relating to the Homeless (GOV package & introduced by Sen. Kim. Not putting additional conditions or restrictions (jumping through hoops, i.e.), might be the right approach. Mahalo, Arvid T. Youngquist Registered Voter Kalihi Valley