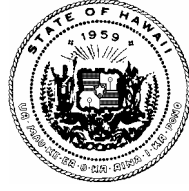


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 5, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2286, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2014; 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211; State Capitol

PURPOSE: S.B. 2286, S.D. 1, 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.

Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 5, 2014

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To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
Re: SB 2286, SD1

To: Senator Ige and the members of the committee,

Aloha,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of SB 2286, SD1.

Failure to pass SB 2286, SD1, leaves open the potential for provider abuse of the scarce resources available to our most vulnerable population.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

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