

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 25, 2016

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 2647 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Hearing: Thursday, February 25, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness offers written comments in regards to this measure, and appreciates the overall concept of the bill as it includes initiatives that align with the state's objectives related to homelessness. However, the Coordinator is concerned about the impact that this measure may have on priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to assist homeless individuals in finding jobs by requiring the City and County of Honolulu to establish a pilot program connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

This measure is in alignment with Goal 3, Objective 7 of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, which is to "increase meaningful and sustainable employment for people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness."

However, the Coordinator notes that there are a number of existing programs, which provide job opportunities specifically targeted at individuals who are homeless. For example, the Hawaii Community Development Authority currently funds a job training program that employs residents of the Next Step homeless shelter for janitorial and trash removal services in Kakaako Makai. These programs support homeless

households in developing essential job skills, as well as assisting these households to increase their income through employment opportunities.

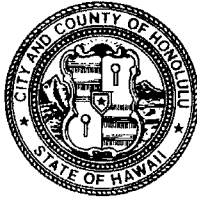
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



GARY K. NAKATA
DIRECTOR

BARBARA YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 25, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee
on Finance
Hawaii House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Subject: HB2647 HD1, Relating to Homelessness

The Department of Community Services (DCS) of the City and County of Honolulu (City) supports HB2647 HD1 with amendments. This measure establishes a three-year Work for a Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities. DCS supports this measure because it encourages innovative ways to help homeless individuals but is not certain that it will be able to administer such a pilot program without first conducting a study as to whether such a program can be implemented. If such a program can be implemented, DCS will need flexibility to administer it. If DCS cannot implement such a pilot program, then provisions should be inserted to ensure that the funds may be used elsewhere to assist homeless individuals with finding work opportunities. There are also concerns about whether the homeless individuals will become City employees by participating in this pilot program and State and City liability that may arise from homeless individuals performing work.

Accordingly, DCS proposes that HB2647 HD1 be amended by:

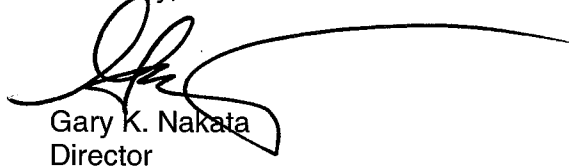
- (1) Specifying that the City will study, administer, and implement the pilot program;
- (2) Allowing the City to designate a service provider to carry out the purposes of the pilot program;
- (3) Allowing the City to determine the organizations at which homeless individuals may be connected with work opportunities;
- (4) Specifying that payment to the homeless individuals for work performed shall be paid from the pilot program's funds;
- (5) Ensuring that homeless individuals who perform work under this pilot program are not considered employees of the State or City;

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
February 25, 2016
Page 2

- (6) Providing that if the City is unable to come up with a pilot program by a certain date, the remaining funds shall be transferred to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness;
- (7) Immunizing the State and City from liability arising out of the planning, administration, or implementation of the pilot program; and
- (8) Requiring that the City submit reports to the Legislature on the progress of the pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Nakata', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary K. Nakata
Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2647 on Feb 25, 2016 13:00PM*



HB2647

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov