

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 16, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

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

SUBJECT: HB 2647 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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.

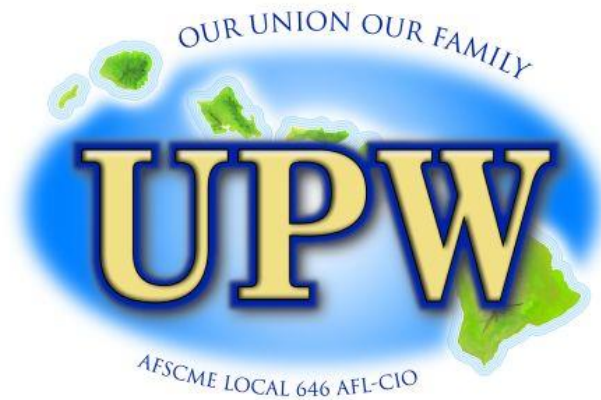
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to assist homeless individuals in finding jobs by requiring the City and County of Honolulu to establish a pilot program connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

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.



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett K. Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 16, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2647 HD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB2647 HD1 establishes a three-year Work for Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities. The bill also provides an appropriation for the program.

The UPW provide the following comments: we are concerned that the bill calls certain labor tasks as “menial” The workers who perform these jobs face danger, air and water pollution, disease, noise, heat, cold, wet, fumes, and help keep our community safe. They are far from menial but are essential workers for our environment and community. We are proud of their dedication and commitment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LABtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 12:51 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: katinka@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2647 on Feb 16, 2016 10:00AM

HB2647

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for LAB on Feb 16, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katinka B. Hammerich	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB 2647 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS House Committee on Human Services Date of Hearing: Tuesday February 16, 2016 at 10:00, House Conference Room 309 I, Katinka Hammerich support House Bill (HB) 2647. The creation of a Work-for-a- day pilot program would assist homeless individuals to gain the skills, experience and confidence needed to find living-wage jobs. I have worked as a social worker with homeless and low-income populations for five years. Most of my clients have faced an enormous array of obstacles to stability, including a lack of full-time employment, low educational attainment, domestic violence, and personal loss. The Work-for-a- day pilot program can give homeless the training, social support, education and work experience they need to overcome those obstacles, empowering them to build a better life for themselves. The dignity that comes from joining mainstream society through a productive working life cannot be underscored enough. A recovery from homelessness requires a sustained investment in homeless people, their lives and their long-term success. For these reasons, I support the passage of HB 2647. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. Regards Katinka B. Hammerich

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

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

RE: H.B. 2647

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Time and Place: 10:00am, Conference Room 309 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Introduction:

My name is Alyssa Foster, I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa pursuing my Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. I am writing on my own behalf testifying in favor of HB 2647.

Content:

I am in favor of this bill due to the evidence that has shown work programs to be effective in helping the homeless. Work programs enable social service individuals and agencies to reach the homeless population in an active, non-threatening way. Homeless individuals also benefit by gaining confidence and community connections that may have been severed during their time on the streets. International and national programs have reported success in their work programs. As part of my graduate education, I have learned the importance of using evidence-based approaches, which is why I am in favor of implementing a work program in Hawai'i.

Closing:

Hawai'i is known as the 'Aloha State', I believe it is time to show that same spirit in addressing our homeless population. They deserve our compassion, tolerance, and respect. The work for a day pilot program would help to turn the tide and bring back that famous state spirit of aloha for all.

Alyssa Foster

UH Manoa, MSW graduate student

1516 Ward Ave. apt 607

Honolulu, HI 96822

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Re: In Support of HB 2647 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christel Magallanes, and I **strongly support** the intent of **HB 2647 H.D. 1** that 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.

I was given a practicum placement this past year at an emergency shelter in Honolulu where I worked with families with children experiencing homelessness. During my time there I've watched as many families struggle to acquire jobs, secure permanent housing, and difficulty meeting their basic needs. As of today, there have been many efforts and resources to help homeless but there have been minor improvements. Pilot programs that assist homeless individuals are being introduced throughout the United States have seen tremendous success. By adopting a similar program, it would give homeless individuals jobs that can promote financial stability.

Homelessness rates have continued to soar. According to the city and county of Honolulu's 2015 report entitled "Homeless Point-in Time Count," the number of homeless people jumped by about four percent compared to previous years. The need for assistance has never been greater. Homeless individuals can make significant gains when allowed proactive services. Please allow homeless individuals to these services that support their wellbeing, reduce poverty, and homelessness in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Christel Magallanes

HB 2647
Homelessness

House Committee on Human Services

Date of Hearing: Tuesday February 16, 2016 at 10:00, State Capitol: Conference Room 309

I, Kyle Chikazawa, want to strongly support House Bill 2647. Establishing a Work-for-a-day pilot program would definitely help the homeless get back on their feet towards independence.

Seeing the many homeless in Kakaako and even in places like Wahiwa where I grew up, I would like to see this House Bill go through because I think it can make a difference. Many times independence is too far out of reach because jobs are scarce and they lack the resources necessary to obtain these jobs. It is extremely important to give the homeless the opportunity to work and eventually find a stable job to provide for themselves. This is the first step of many that will help lead to getting back on their feet. Having a job opens up the possibility of getting a home and off the streets. As a future social worker, I understand that many homeless are there by choice, while others have no choice. I would like to empower these individuals to become part of the working force again.

Having a sense of independence is something that every individual strives to achieve. For those individuals who are starting from the bottom, it is important to be able to see that there are opportunities and save so that they can have the financial ability to live independently one day. By establishing a Work-for-a-day pilot program, homeless individuals have another option and opportunity to gain financial stability and take a step towards independence.

Thank you for working on this Bill in hopes to benefit the homeless cause.

Sincerely,
Kyle Chikazawa
280 Kilea Pl
Wahiawa, HI, 96786
Telephone: (808) 284-3903



LATE

46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2647, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Hon. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Hon. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Nakashima and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 2647, HD1, relating to homelessness.

According to the latest point-in-time count, Hawai'i has 7,620 people living without housing, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. Our state's homeless population has reached its highest number in five years, boosted by a dramatic increase in the number of unsheltered houseless persons. Unsheltered persons now total 3,843 people, while sheltered individuals total 3,777. On O'ahu, in 2015, the houseless population rose to 4,903, up from 4,712 in 2014. The Big Island of Hawai'i totaled 1,241 houseless persons, up from 869 a year ago—a shocking 43 percent increase. Maui County saw its houseless population rise to 1,137, last year, up from 959 the previous year.

We do not believe that this bill represents a long-term, comprehensive solution to homelessness in Hawai'i. Moreover, we recognize that if passed, this bill must be coupled with additional reforms to be fully effectuated, such as increasing access to identification for houseless persons whose identification cards have been lost, stolen, or confiscated, funding our state's Housing First program, establishing transitional shelters, and most importantly, offsetting the islands' regressive and nation-leading cost of living by building truly affordable housing. That said, the provision of job training is a critical step in assisting houseless persons in attaining

marketable skills and full-time employment. Given the number of disruptive ordinances passed in recent years that criminalize the houseless— including sit-lie bans and stored property ordinances, the selective enforcement of which, via unannounced property raids, constitutes an unconstitutional violation of the Fourth Amendment's search and seizure protections and Eighth Amendment's ban on excessive and cruel and unusual punishment, according to a statement of interest from the United States Department of Justice, along with numerous mainland courts and legal scholars—we believe that enactment of public policy designed to raise houseless individuals' self-worth and earnings will lead to lasting gains in such person's standards of living and, ultimately, the financial prosperity necessary to secure sustainable shelter.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance