



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
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**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2647 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

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

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness offers written comments, 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 testify on this bill.

HB 2647  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS  
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I, James Miyashiro, is in strong support for House Bill 2647. Establishing a Work-for-a-day pilot program would definitely help homeless individuals get back on their feet towards independence.

As a volunteer case manager at an emergency homeless shelter, I understand the financial frustration individuals develop when working towards independence. Finding a job can be a long and daunting task, that can sometimes lead to no employment. Individuals may have down-time to spare, usually waiting for contact from services or employers [e.g. waiting for a response from Dept. of Human Services (SNAP/Welfare benefits), also trying to earn money while searching and setting up employment opportunities]. HB 2647 would help with eliminating those down-time hours and give individuals the opportunity to empower themselves to earn money while they wait for services/employers, have a sense of place and pride within their community through city beautification. We all know too well of the financial challenges that each individual faces when living in Hawaii, and establishing this pilot program will help not only homeless individuals work towards independence, but help ease work/financial worry on city/state landscaping upkeep, and help strengthen the sense of community for all individuals impacted by this program.

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 earn and save so that they have the financial ability to live independently. By establishing a Work-for-a-day pilot program, homeless individuals have another avenue and opportunity to gain financial freedom and take a step towards independence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,  
James Miyashiro  
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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 9:33 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** jlemus@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2647 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM

**HB2647**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Lemus	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of measure HB2647 because it provides crucial protection for trafficking of parts from protected, threatened, and endangered animals. As an island state with many endangered indigenous species, it is Hawaii's moral and civic duty to protect the existence of all endangered animals from destructive harvesting practices and unconscionable marketing.

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.

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