



The Institute for Human Services
Ending The Cycle of Homelessness

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Kimo K. Carvalho
546 Kaaahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

RE: IHS TESTIMONY – PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO HB1281 HD1

Honorable Chair,

IHS would like to propose the following change to HB1281 HD1

Section 2 (a) proposed change to read: There is established a three-year homeless employment program that shall be administered by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Section 2 (b) (2) proposed change to read: Pay individuals in the program for the hours they worked in the day, which may include a limited amount of time spent with service providers; provided that the source of funding for the payments shall be the employment program's funds.

Section 2 (b) (3) proposed change to read: Qualify and connect homeless individuals to housing programs.

IHS is proposing that these changes remove the concept of "job for a day" throughout the bill and rather expand to make it a more comprehensive employment program for homeless with the intent that they be navigated into housing. It is necessary that our State's homeless policies continue to follow a Housing First philosophy where programs and initiatives are leading individuals into permanent housing, as quickly as possible. Under the "job for a day" program, homeless individuals would not receive a pay stub that could make them eligible for housing programs administered by the State, Cities, and its contractors. Additionally, Oahu is currently at a 2.9% unemployment rate. There are jobs available and the preference is to channel our homeless clients into the workforce.

If homeless needs pre-vocational job training programs, employment placement and support programs, or post-employment support programs – non-profits like IHS, Goodwill, Lanakila Pacific and others offer these options. IHS proposes that the legislature fund these existing programs that work effectively.

IHS also proposes that the funds be administered through the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. There is needed investment in training and education into the Hawaii State Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act that already exists. Currently, this mandate has limited funds to assist displaced workers needing employment and training. The Act also lists the objective to serve returning homeless to the workforce. Therefore, we ask that you redirect funds to this area of need.

Mahalo,
Kimo K. Carvalho
Director of Community Relations

From: [Marya Grambs](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: re: HB1281 - Work-For-A-Day Pilot
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2017 1:11:18 PM

Aloha Sens. Green and Chang and Committee members,
It looks like you didn't receive my testimony for HB1281, which I sent in prior to Friday's hearing. I guess it got lost in the mix-up with the site problems. At any rate, here it is!

TO: Sen. Josh Green, Chair, and Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and members, Senate Human Services Committee
FR: Marya Grambs, member of Partners in Care and PHOCUSED
RE: HB1281HD1, Relating to Homelessness; IN STRONG SUPPORT
DT: Hearing Friday March 17, 2:50; room 017

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1281 HD1, which appropriates funds for a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. I am a member of Partners in Care, a coalition of homelessness agencies; and PHOCUSED, an organization which advocates for services and policies for vulnerable and underserved populations.

Not only does the Work-A-Day program provide homeless people with public service jobs that enhance our community, but it also connects them with behavioral and substance use services and places many in permanent supportive housing. It helps reduce the stigma of homelessness by enabling others at the worksite to meet individual homeless people and see that they want to work and can be productive and contributing community members. And, finally, providing homeless people with jobs enhances their sense of dignity and self-worth, as it does for all of us.

This pilot is modeled after a very successful program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that is also being started in Chicago, Tucson, and Anchorage. Adopting it here in Hawai'i is an inexpensive but effective step towards reducing our homeless rate and helping Hawaii's most marginalized people move towards stability.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness.

With Aloha,

Marya Grambs

Aloha,

Marya Grambs

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