

# HB 1281, HD 1

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HUS, LAB, FIN

# HB1281 HD1



[Submit Testimony](#)

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**Report Title:** Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:** Establishes a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2018 Regular Session on implementing the program. Appropriates funds. (HB1281 HD1)

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HUS, LAB, FIN

**Introducer(s):** C. LEE, BROWER, CREAGAN, EVANS, KEOHOKALOLE, LOPRESTI, LOWEN, MCKELVEY, MORIKAWA

<a href="#">Sort by Date</a>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/24/2017	H	Pending introduction.
1/25/2017	H	Pass First Reading
1/30/2017	H	Referred to HUS, LAB, FIN, referral sheet 6
1/31/2017	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by HUS on Friday, 02-03-17 9:00AM in House conference room 329.
2/3/2017	H	The committees on HUS recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 5 Ayes: Representative(s) Morikawa, Todd, Kobayashi, Oshiro, Tupola; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and 2 Excused: Representative(s) Belatti, Har.
2/7/2017	H	Reported from HUS (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 56) as amended in HD 1, recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to LAB.
2/7/2017	H	Passed Second Reading as amended in HD 1 and referred to the committee(s) on LAB with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and Representative(s) Oshiro excused (1).
2/10/2017	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by LAB on Tuesday, 02-14-17 10:00AM in House conference room 309.

S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment  
Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the  
2 2015 point-in-time count for the city and county of Honolulu,  
3 the number of homeless people in Honolulu rose by about four per  
4 cent from 2014 to 2015. Despite increased efforts and resources  
5 to reduce homelessness in Hawaii, homelessness has remained a  
6 significant issue. Homeless individuals often rely on  
7 panhandling for income. Citations and jail time for panhandling  
8 can be disruptive and exacerbate the problem. Further, it has  
9 often been difficult for service providers to connect with  
10 homeless individuals and identify the services they need, such  
11 as mental health or substance abuse treatment.

12           The legislature recognizes that pilot programs throughout  
13 the United States provide homeless individuals with temporary  
14 work while providing easy access to services. A pilot program  
15 launched in Albuquerque, New Mexico has received national  
16 attention. The program connects homeless individuals with work  
17 cleaning up public spaces, and is proving to be a success. A



1 similar program introduced in Tucson, Arizona assists homeless  
2 individuals with temporary jobs.

3 The legislature further finds that in Hawaii, some service  
4 providers assist homeless individuals with temporary work.

5 However, those programs are limited to small areas, and thus are  
6 not available to the vast majority of homeless individuals in  
7 communities throughout the State. The legislature also finds  
8 that since problems like graffiti and litter remain prevalent  
9 throughout Hawaii, the State could employ homeless individuals  
10 to help reduce those problems.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot program  
12 that:

- 13 (1) Assists homeless individuals by providing them  
14 temporary jobs in public service; and
- 15 (2) Connects homeless individuals with service providers.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year work-  
17 for-a-day pilot program that shall be developed and administered  
18 by the governor's coordinator on homelessness or the  
19 coordinator's designee. The designee may be a service provider  
20 or other qualified person or entity.

21 (b) The work-for-a-day pilot program shall:



- 1 (1) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;
- 2 (2) Pay individuals in the program for the hours they
- 3 worked in the day, which may include a limited amount
- 4 of time spent with service providers; provided that
- 5 the source of funding for the payments shall be the
- 6 work-for-a-day pilot program's funds;
- 7 (3) Connect homeless individuals with service providers at
- 8 the appropriate time; and
- 9 (4) When appropriate, transport participants in the
- 10 program to a shelter at the end of the work day.
- 11 (c) The homeless individuals who work pursuant to
- 12 subsection (b) shall not be considered employees of the State
- 13 solely as a result of their work in the pilot program.
- 14 (d) The State shall be immune from suit and liability for
- 15 any claim for damage to or loss of property, personal injury, or
- 16 other civil liability caused, arising out of, or relating to any
- 17 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred at any
- 18 stage of the planning and administration of the work-for-a-day
- 19 pilot program.
- 20 (e) The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall
- 21 submit a report that includes:



- 1 (1) The progress on the work-for-a-day pilot program;
- 2 (2) Any findings and recommendations; and
- 3 (3) Any necessary proposed legislation,
- 4 to the legislature no later than twenty days before the
- 5 convening of the regular session of 2018.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
 9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 10 2018-2019 for the purpose of establishing a three-year work-for-  
 11 a-day pilot program.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 13 of human services with the approval of the governor's  
 14 coordinator on homelessness for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2075.



**Report Title:**

Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2018 Regular Session on implementing the program. Appropriates funds. (HB1281 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



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- 11          (c) The homeless individuals who work pursuant to
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- 18          stage of the planning and administration of the work-for-a-day
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- 21          submit a report that includes:



# H.B. NO. 1281

1 (1) Its progress on the work-for-a-day pilot program;

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3 (3) Any necessary proposed legislation

4 to the legislature no later than twenty days before the

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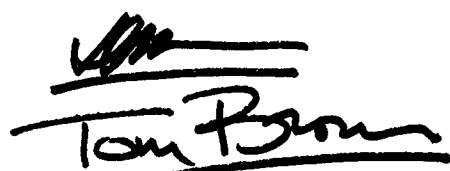
15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

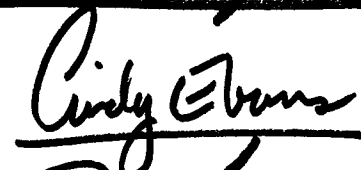
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INTRODUCED BY: 



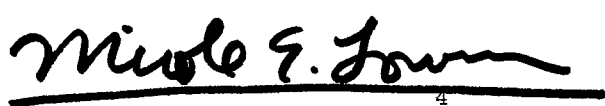














# H.B. NO. 1281

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Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Appropriates funds.

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**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2017

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

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

**SUBJECT: HB1281 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it seeks to pilot new strategies to address the complex issue of homelessness, but expresses concern regarding the potential adverse impact on priorities identified in the Executive Budget. In addition, while Section 2 of the bill requires the Coordinator to develop and administer the work-for-a-day pilot program, the Coordinator does not currently have the staff or capacity to directly administer contracts for services. If this measure proceeds further, the Coordinator suggests the measure be amended to place responsibility within a more appropriate agency in the Executive Branch that could oversee the proposed services.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. The bill requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, or the Coordinator's designee, to develop and administer a pilot program. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement the pilot program.

While the role of the Coordinator is to establish and coordinate State policy to address homelessness, the Coordinator is not responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless programs, including the direct contracting of services. The

implementation and execution of programs is generally handled by programs within Executive Branch agencies that have the capacity to procure and oversee direct program development.

The Coordinator notes that the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) currently funds a job training program that employs residents of the Next Step homeless shelter for janitorial and trash removal services in Kakaako Makai. The existing HCDA program is similar to the pilot program described in this bill and provides homeless persons with direct employment, on-the-job training, and a connection to shelter and other appropriate homeless services. In addition to the HCDA program, some homeless service providers offer similar employment training programs that are intended to develop job skills and promote civic responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



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

February 14, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1281 HD 1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill as it offers a different strategy that aligns with the State's objectives related to homelessness. However, DHS has concerns about the fiscal implications and the impact it may have on the priorities established in the Governor's Executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to assist homeless individuals in finding jobs by requiring the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to establish a pilot program connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

There are a number of existing programs that provide job training and opportunities available to homeless clients with children. Programs such as SEE Hawaii Work, (<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/see/>), assist families with children who receive Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TAONF)/Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) financial benefits, and the Employment and Training Program provides additional services for TANF/TAONF recipients who also receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Programs such as the City and County of Honolulu's rent to work program are targeted specifically for homeless persons. 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.





# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu Continuum of Care

*Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.*

Testimony of Partners in Care  
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1281 HD1 Relating to Homelessness  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Scheduled for Hearing Monday Feb 14 10 am rm 309

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, and Committee members:

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.

Not only does the 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  
Partners in Care Advocacy Committee

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** barbarapolk@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 14, 2017 10:00AM

**HB1281**

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for LAB on Feb 14, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Although I doubt that the provisions of this bill will have much impact on homelessness, I support it as a pilot project because it holds promise of connecting homeless individuals with support services and helps them to maintain or regain a sense of dignity through making a contribution to the community.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

# HB 1281, HD 1

## Late Testimony

**LATE**

**LATE**



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 1281 HD 1 Relating to Homelessness  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 309

**LATE**

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

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Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1281 HD 1, 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.

This program is modeled after a homeless work program first implemented in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to give people experiencing homelessness a chance to earn money by helping clean up the city. Since the inception of the Albuquerque program in 2015, 1,175 day jobs have been given to 401 unduplicated persons, cleaning 292 city blocks and removing 105,101 pounds of litter. In addition, the program has connected 190+ people various employment opportunities through Albuquerque's employment services office. Also, the program has connected 136+ people with behavioral health and substance abuse services, and has placed 20 people into permanent supportive housing.

In light of the success of the program, the City of Albuquerque has increased the funds appropriated to the program in order to increase its impact in combatting homelessness. Similar programs have also been started in Chicago, Tucson, and Anchorage. HB 1281 would appropriate \$300,000 for fiscal year 2017-18 to pilot a similar program in Hawai'i. Given our high homelessness rate—the nation's highest—the program would offer a necessary and effective tool in our arsenal for attacking a homelessness problem we are struggling to gain ground on.

This program is an effective measure towards ending homelessness by reducing the stigma around homelessness, and giving those experiencing homelessness an opportunity to earn cash and access services that can connect them with housing, treatment, and other employment opportunities. Adopting the program in Hawai'i has the potential to be a relatively inexpensive, but effective step towards helping those on the margins onto their feet and bringing them back into the fold.

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