



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 3, 2017

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

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

SUBJECT: HB1281 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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.

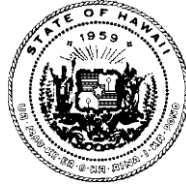
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a three-year Work-for-a-Day Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. The bill also appropriates \$300,000 in general funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 3, 2017

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

The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1281 Relating to Homelessness
House Committees on Human Services and Intrastate Commerce
Scheduled for Hearing Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

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.

Dear Chair Morikawa, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees on Human Services and Intrastate Commerce:

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



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 SUPPORT OF HB 1281 Relating to Homelessness
House Committees on Human Services and Intrastate Commerce
Scheduled for Hearing Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Morikawa, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees on Human Services and Intrastate Commerce:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1281, 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 in the worksite to meet individual homeless people and see that they 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 a relatively 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

HUStestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:37 PM
To: HUStestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM

HB1281

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi, my name is Camila Chaudron, and I live in the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this measure because it seems like a productive, positive program to help the homeless re-integrate into the workforce. We all know that homelessness is a major issue in Hawaii, and we should be trying to use a diversity of methods to address the problem. This might not be the only solution, but it could possibly really help people and create a model for future programs. Mahalo.

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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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:44:29 PM

HB1281

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2017 7:30:12 PM



HB1281

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:35:25 PM



HB1281

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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