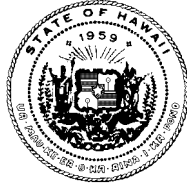


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB268 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: January 27, 2017, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges the effort of the Legislature to address the issue of homelessness and provide comments, as a homeless services data system already exists as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$250,000 to conduct a study on the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database for providers of homeless services that provide access to certain information about homeless individuals served, including police, medical, social services, and mental health records, to improve tracking services provided and optimize costs.

DHS, the HMIS statewide data committee, and homeless service providers are currently working to improve the state's HMIS data collection, reporting and analyses features. Information from HMIS is used to track services, optimize costs and identify needed resources. Detailed data rich homeless services utilization reports from HMIS data are regularly published by the UH Center on the Family. A link to the website is provided:
<http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/projects/homeless/publications.aspx>.

HMIS does collect client level information of individuals who access the homeless services system in a Continuum of Care (CoC); Hawaii has two CoC, Partners in Care on Oahu and Bridging the Gap serves neighbor island counties. HMIS is able to integrate and unduplicate data from all homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs within the CoCs. Aggregate HMIS data can be used to understand the size, characteristics, and needs of the homeless population at the local, state, and national levels. HMIS enables organizations that operate homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs to improve case management by collecting information about client needs, goals, and service outcomes. HMIS helps to improve access to timely resource and referral information and to better manage operations. HUD has supported the development of local Homeless Management Information Systems by: 1) providing technical support and funding to CoCs to develop local HMIS; and 2) undertaking a research effort to collect and analyze HMIS data from a representative sample of communities in order to understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationally.

The State and homeless service providers have been using the HMIS system since 2001. DHS service providers are contractually required to input all data into HMIS within 72 hours. DHS also contracts an organization to be the system administrator for HMIS. The system administrator maintains the system, conducts training on the use of the system, and provides other administrative functions. Through the system administrator, HMIS has had an increase in data quality and timeliness of data input.

However, the HMIS does not store an individual's "records" as described in the bill. Each type of record identified in the measure, law enforcement, medical, mental health and social services records, are each governed by a host of different confidentiality, privacy, security, and use laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: SB 268– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Friday, January 27, 2017, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the on-going work to improve the data systems for homeless services to enhance the existing homeless services data hub Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and the Department of Health's (DOH), Hawaii Pathways Project, effort and work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing that is looking at potential integration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other systems that contain information related to homeless individuals.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to study the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database of certain information related to homeless individuals for providers of homeless services.

The Coordinator notes that efforts are currently underway to address issues related to integration of data related to homelessness. In particular, DOH receives federal grant funding from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Hawaii Pathways Project, and through that program contracts the Corporation for Supportive Housing for work that includes looking at data integration between the HMIS and other systems.

The HMIS is the primary database for homeless service utilization, and data entry into the system is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and urban Development (HUD) for

certain federally-funded homeless service programs. In 2015, Hawaii's HMIS transitioned from a legacy system to a new platform. In the most recent series of DHS contracts, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requires state-funded service providers to enter data into the HMIS. HPO also allocated \$325,000 for provider training, system development, and data analysis of the HMIS. The HMIS is owned and administered by the Continua of Care (CoCs), which represent homeless service providers statewide, and HPO works closely with the CoCs to build a more robust data collection and reporting system.

In addition, HPO contracts the University Of Hawaii Center on the Family for homeless data analysis and reporting, which includes preparing the annual Homeless Service Utilization Report. The utilization report provides an analysis of federally and state-funded homeless service programs that input data into the HMIS. The utilization report typically focuses on data captured within a state fiscal year. A copy of the most recent utilization report is available online at: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015-HomelessServiceUtilization2015.pdf>

See also the report submitted to the legislature as required by Section 20.1, of Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, on Homeless Services. The report addressed the status of the current number of homeless individuals and families statewide, the level of services currently provided, and available information on service outcomes. A copy of the report is available online at: https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Section-20.1-Act-124-SLH-2016-Homeless-Services-Report_11-7-16-FINAL.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 8:00 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mmiyoshi@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB268 on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM

SB268

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

Testimony for HMS on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mari Miyoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello senators, my name is Mari Miyoshi and I am a constituent from the Honolulu area. I strongly support this bill. As I believe that access to health care is a basic human right, I fully support the need for the state to protect our citizen's access to health care coverage. I am proud that our state currently provides quality care to its people, and we should continue doing so. 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 1:53 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB268 on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM*

SB268

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HMS on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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