

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services  
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

February 21, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1281 HD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1281 HD1 Relating to Homelessness.

Runaway and homeless youth who are living on the streets without guidance or support from their families are the most vulnerable and least recognized segment of our homeless population. These youth lack employment skills and work experience, yet need to find the means to support themselves. Some are enrolled in transitional living programs, in which they obtain safe housing while learning the skills for successful adult living.

A work-for-a-day program could provide valuable work experience that can help homeless youth move into a more stable and self-supporting lifestyle.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1281 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members,  
Committee on Finance

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

**Hearing: Thursday, 2/23/17; 12:00 PM; CR 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in 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 Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly believes in the dignity of work. Providing opportunities for homeless people to "work for a day", can start the process out of homelessness while respecting the dignity and individual needs of each person. Not only would the Work for a Day Pilot give work opportunities, but it would then link the participants with service providers. Daily money for basic living needs is critical for people on the streets. This work program can help with basic needs yet also can be the carrot to connect the homeless to service providers. Housing navigation and services needed for a successful transition off the streets and into housing must begin with a homeless person willing to work with an outreach person or case manager. This Work for a Day program has made a difference in other states. Hawaii's homeless also need a chance to gain work income and work skills to move forward to permanent housing.

We know we have a crisis. We know we are #1 rate in the nation for homelessness per capita. We need innovative programs like Work for a Day to address homelessness in new ways.

We urge you to support this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), if you have any questions.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:28 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kimcoco@kimcoco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

**HB1281**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This common-sense program works when implemented in a manner consistent with the Albuquerque model. Please specify that the workers must be paid at the end of their shift in cash, that same day, at least a minimum wage, if not more. The program coordinators can use technology to record cash payments - for auditing purposes.

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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** rezentesc@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

**HB1281**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cynthia K.L. Rezendes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Representative Luke and members of the Finance Committee: I strongly support this bill and encourage you to pass it. HCDA in Kakaako hosted a similar program successfully for a time in the area and it provided a way for clients to "work" near to where they established their encampment. While this bill may not do this in the same manner, it does provide a pathway for the homeless to get into the job market and gain some skills that should help them establish themselves in the job market and eventually earn enough to rent/own a home. This gentle nudge could help a number of homeless that I see in shelters go out and "get a job" to place them on this pathway. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Cynthia K.L. Rezendes

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:04 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: Justpeachy242@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

**HB1281**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fawn Liebengood	808 Cleanups	Support	Yes

Comments: 808 Cleanups sees firsthand the impact homelessness has on our parks, beaches, & communities. In 2016, we began reaching out to IHS, Alea Bridge, & CHOW project to see how we can help the homeless issue plaguing our State. We learned about Albuquerque's successful day work program & contacted them to see how we can implement something similar here in Hawaii. HB1281 is exactly what 808 Cleanups & our homeless nonprofit partners have been waiting for. 808 Cleanups is action-oriented. All we need is your approval & seed funding to get this program started in Hawaii. The infrastructure is ready & waiting. Please support this bill & think outside the box to combat our homeless problem. Mahalo.

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# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**LATE**

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
**Supporting HB 1281 HD1** Relating to Homelessness

House Committee on Finance

Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 PM, Conference Room 308

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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 Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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 funds 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.



**LATE**

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2017

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

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

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, 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

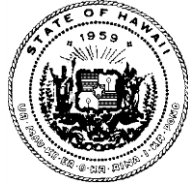
implementation and execution of programs is generally handled by programs within Executive Branch agencies that have the capacity to procure and oversee direct program development.

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 Kaka'ako 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

**LATE**

February 23, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, 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.