

HB1281 HD1

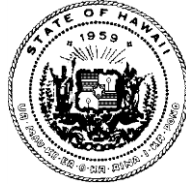
Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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)

Current Referral: HMS, JDL/WAM

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



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

March 17, 2017

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 and offers comments 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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2017

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

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

SUBJECT: HB1281 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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.

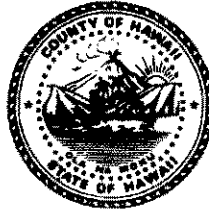
While the role of the Coordinator is to establish and coordinate State policy to address homelessness, the Coordinator is not responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless programs, including the direct contracting of services. The

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.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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March 15, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs Green, Espero, and Committee members:

**RE: Homelessness: HB 527, HD1; HB 1195, HD 1; HB 1281, HD 1
HB 83, HD1; HB 1240, HD2; HB1098, HD2; SCR 56**

Between your two committees, all the above bills dealing with homelessness will be heard. It is difficult for me to pick and choose among them, and I will defer to your good judgment as to which approaches should move forward and be funded. But I would be remiss if I did not thank you for the attention that you are giving to the issue, and express my hope that you and your fellow legislators will continue to strive to ease this burden and deal humanely with the pain that homelessness afflicts, both on those without shelter and on the community at large.

I should put in a special word for SCR 56. Using Medicaid funds to treat homelessness seems to be such an innovative approach; it deserves extra kudos.

Homelessness is an obvious failure of our society to meet the basic needs of all our people. We cannot hesitate to search for solutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1281 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017; 2:50 pm; CR 016

Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Members, Committee on Human Services:

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 Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii 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 Hawaii. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Catholic Charities Hawaii 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, if you have any questions.



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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

March 14, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1281 HD1 Relating to Homelessness
Senate Human Services Committee
Scheduled for Hearing Friday, March 17 at 2:45pm, Conference Room 016

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 Green, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee:
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 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.

March 15, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1281 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS
Hearing on March 17, 2017, 2:50pm, Room 016**

TO: Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Barbara Polk

I am am testifying as an individual concerned with homelessness and the many failed efforts to deal with it. I strongly support the Work-for-a-Day program, which would hire homeless people to do odd jobs. This would give them work experience, as well as some money, putting them in a better position to get a permanent job.

I encourage you to pass HB 1281.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:15 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1281 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB1281

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM 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.

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