



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 13, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2019 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 8:35 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

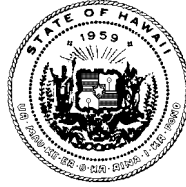
POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, but notes concern regarding potential adverse impact on priorities identified in the Governor's supplemental budget. In addition, while Section 2 of the bill requires the Coordinator to develop and administer 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 state department that has the expertise to 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 be expended by the Department of Human Services (DHS), with the approval of the Coordinator, 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) maintains a contract with Waikiki Health's Next Step Shelter to employ shelter residents 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, other 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 8, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2019 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 8:35 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill establishes a 3-year homeless employment grant 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 2019 Regular Session on implementing the program. Appropriates funds.

According to the National Alliance for Ending Homelessness, meaningful and sustainable employment is the key to creating and maintain housing stability. Unemployment, underemployment, and low wages relative to rent are frequent causes of homelessness and burden millions of families with the risk of becoming homeless. Further, DHS recognizes that there is not enough housing subsidy to sustain housing for everyone who may need assistance. Alternatively, working with participant to gain meaningful and sustainable income is one strategy to help fill in the gap.

DHS has 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 (TANF)/Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) financial benefits, and the Employment and Training Program provides additional services for TANF/TAONF recipients who also received Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The City and County of Honolulu has the Rent to Work program, exclusive to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Homeless agencies across the continuum have also recognized that securing or increasing income through employment will help place participants into permanent housing and keep them housed. The Institute of Human Services' (IHS) Hele2Work, has been successful in providing complete services from an initial assessment to job placement. Hele2Work can be mobile and will meet the needs of participants. IHS continues to build relationships with employers in the community so participants gain access to jobs that pay more than the minimum wage.

With regard to section 2, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is not an office currently structured to pilot a program or contract for services.

With regard to the expending provision of section 3, DHS recognizes the broader policy role the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness on the state's entire response system, and DHS collaborates with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness on policy directions; DHS requires clarification of the phrase "with approval," as the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, though he is an employee of DHS, is not currently a part of the procurement process at DHS.

DHS asks that that should this measure proceed that it not supplant resources from identified priorities and ongoing programs, and that the committee continue to support the Governor's supplemental budget request to address homelessness and the framework plan established to address homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

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

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 8, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
And members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2019 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2019 Relating to Homelessness.

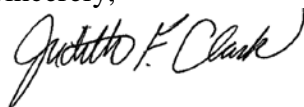
Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They have not completed their education and lack employment experience. In the 2017 Homeless Point-in-Time count, more than 80% were unsheltered.

While on the streets they have few options for meeting their basic survival needs. Homeless youth often trade sex for food, money or a place to sleep. They may be forced to eat food from garbage cans or panhandle.

An employment program would give them safer ways to meet basic needs while building the relationships and trust with support staff that will lead to leaving the streets. They would gain work experience that could lead to longer-term, competitive employment. And it would give them opportunities to contribute to their community by removing graffiti and litter.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-2019

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 11:04:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maisa Thayer		Support	No

Comments:

Thank you members of the committee for reading my testimony. I am raised in Hawaii and I am a social worker. I work in Waimanlo Hawaii with our homeless population. I am in support of this bill and propped program because many of our homeless feel worthless and removed from society. Their self esteem is crippled and their needs are extreme. Many of them are too scared and too proud to ask for work. I believe that if it was presented to them in this manner with transportation and a decent wage they would take the chance to be reintegrated and find some self worth. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Chair Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOR Chair Vice Chair

Representatives: C. LEE, BROWER, CREAGAN, EVANS, ICHIYAMA, KEOHOKALOLE,
LOPRESTI, LOWEN, LUKE, MIZUNO, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, QUINLAN, SAIKI,
TAKUMI, THIELEN

HEARING: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 8:30am, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 2019: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and there are simple commonsense strategies, that can have positive impact on the issue and serve the community needs as well. Thus far interventions and have been limited in impact because of funding Employment is one of the strongest predictors and indicators for a favorable outcome in homelessness interventions. Combined with additional services this type of program will improve access and a pathway to self-management and sufficiency. There are very similar programs in Tucson, Arizona, Albuquerque, New Mexico that have been effective.

HB 2019 will provide the foundation for Hawaii to explore the suitability of strategies and approaches to efficiently, and effectively address essential needs of homeless individuals. It will assist them in returning to the workforce, participating in their communities and the pilot program will directly benefit the taxpayers and the communities throughout our islands.

Please vote **YES** on HB 2019 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

James Plichta

BSW, CSAC, ICADC

Graduate Student

Myron B Thompson School of Social Work University of Hawaii at Manoa

Intern Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

HB-2019

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 5:35:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AND
COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
8:35 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2019, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

To the Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair; the Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of

Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.2019 relating to the Homeless Employment Grant Program.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.2019 and supports its passage as it establishes a pilot program that: (1) assists homeless individuals by providing them 14 temporary jobs in public service; and (2) connects homeless individuals with service providers.

House Bill No.2019 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a 3 - year homeless employment grant program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. It further requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2019 Regular Session on implementing the program.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient, and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so. . . .We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal opportunity in our communities." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 184-185, 189-191 (2016)).

"Housing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. . . . We believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 340-344, 352-353 (2016)).

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai'i's homeless population, to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans the aged and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender homeless. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 355-358 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2019 establishes a pilot program that assists homeless individuals by providing them with temporary jobs in public service and connects homeless individuals with service providers, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2019

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:24:51 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melynda Dant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This sounds like a good plan to help move the homeless in a positive direction. We have to do what we can to help these people at a difficult time in their lives. Some may need mental health support, we need to help them like we would want to be helped.

HB-2019

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:20:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Garris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

**TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI WEBSTER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) REGARDING H.B. 2019**

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Time: 8:35 a.m.

Room: 329

To: Chair John M. Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services and Chair Aaron Ling Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

My name is Nahelani Webster and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) regarding H.B. 2019, Relating to Homelessness.

We agree with the intent of the bill but simply ask that Section 2(e) on page 3 be stricken. The provision absolving the State from suit and liability is simply too broad, goes against public policy, and would remove the safeguards in place to protect homeless individuals. There are too many unforeseen instances that warrant a reasonable person standard be left in place for the protection of the homeless individuals participating in the pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact us should there be any questions.