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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the  
2 2019 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count, there were  
3 over 4,453 homeless individuals on Oahu. Despite increased  
4 efforts and resources to reduce homelessness in Hawaii, it has  
5 remained a significant issue. Homeless individuals often rely  
6 on panhandling for income. Citations and jail time for  
7 panhandling can be disruptive and exacerbate the problem.  
8 Further, service providers often have difficulty in identifying  
9 and connecting homeless individuals with the services they need,  
10 such as mental health or substance abuse treatment.

11           The legislature recognizes that pilot programs throughout  
12 the country provide homeless individuals with temporary work  
13 while providing easy access to services. A pilot program  
14 launched in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2015 has received  
15 national attention. The program provides homeless individuals  
16 with work cleaning public spaces. A similar program introduced



1 in Tucson, Arizona assists homeless individuals with temporary  
2 jobs.

3 The legislature further finds that in Hawaii, some service  
4 providers assist homeless individuals with temporary work.  
5 However, those programs are limited to small areas and are not  
6 available to the vast majority of homeless individuals in the  
7 State. The legislature also finds that since problems like  
8 graffiti and litter remain prevalent throughout Hawaii, the  
9 State could employ homeless individuals to help reduce these  
10 problems.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot program  
12 that:

- 13 (1) Seeks out homeless individuals across an island or  
14 islands who wish to participate in the program, with a  
15 focus on individuals who have yet to receive services;
- 16 (2) Assists homeless individuals by providing them  
17 temporary jobs in public service; and
- 18 (3) Connects homeless individuals with service providers.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year homeless  
20 employment grant program that shall be developed by the  
21 department of human services.



1 (b) The department of human services shall contract with a  
2 service provider or other qualified person or entity to  
3 administer the program; provided that the contract shall be  
4 exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 (c) The homeless employment grant program shall:

6 (1) Seek out homeless individuals across an island or  
7 islands who wish to participate in the program, with a  
8 focus on individuals who have yet to receive services;

9 (2) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;

10 (3) Pay individuals in the program for their hourly work,  
11 which may include a limited amount of time spent with  
12 service providers; provided that the payments shall be  
13 funded by the homeless employment grant program;

14 (4) Connect homeless individuals with service providers  
15 when appropriate; and

16 (5) Transport program participants to a shelter at the end  
17 of the work day, when appropriate.

18 (d) The homeless individuals who work pursuant to  
19 subsection (c) shall not be considered employees of the State  
20 solely as a result of their work in the program.



1 (e) The State shall be immune from suit and liability for  
2 any claim for damage to or loss of property, personal injury, or  
3 other civil liability caused, arising out of, or relating to any  
4 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred at any  
5 stage of the planning and administration of the homeless  
6 employment grant program.

7 (f) No later than twenty days before the convening of the  
8 regular session of 2021, the department of human services shall  
9 submit a report to the legislature that includes:

- 10 (1) The progress made toward implementing the homeless  
11 employment grant program;  
12 (2) Any findings and recommendations; and  
13 (3) Any necessary proposed legislation.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
17 the purpose of establishing a three-year homeless employment  
18 grant program.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20 human services for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 2117

**Report Title:**

Homeless Employment Grant Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a 3-year homeless employment grant program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2021 Regular Session. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

