
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, this 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 Furthermore, service providers often have difficulty in
9 identifying and connecting homeless individuals with the
10 services they need, such as mental health or substance abuse
11 treatment.

12 The legislature recognizes that pilot programs throughout
13 the country provide homeless individuals with temporary work
14 while providing easy access to services. A pilot program
15 launched in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2015 has received
16 national attention. The program provides homeless individuals
17 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 these
17 individuals with 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 homeless employment grant program; provided that
4 the contract shall be exempt from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii
5 Revised Statutes, only for the term of the homeless employment
6 grant program. Contracts entered into during the homeless
7 employment grant program shall not extend beyond the date of
8 June 30, 2023.

9 (c) The homeless employment grant program shall:

- 10 (1) Seek out homeless individuals across an island or
11 islands who wish to participate in the program, with a
12 focus on individuals who have yet to receive services;
- 13 (2) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;
- 14 (3) Pay individuals in the program for their hourly work,
15 which may include a limited amount of time spent with
16 service providers; provided that the payments shall be
17 funded by the homeless employment grant program;
- 18 (4) Connect homeless individuals with service providers,
19 when appropriate; and
- 20 (5) Transport program participants to a shelter at the end
21 of the work day, when appropriate.



1 (d) The homeless individuals who work pursuant to
2 subsection (c) shall not be considered employees of the State
3 solely as a result of their work in the homeless employment
4 grant program.

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

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

- 14 (1) The progress made toward implementing the homeless
15 employment grant program;
- 16 (2) Any findings and recommendations; and
- 17 (3) Any proposed legislation.

18 SECTION 3. (a) The department of human services shall
19 examine the effectiveness, progress, and success of employment
20 programs that target homeless young adults and youth within the
21 department, including those within the homeless programs office



1 and office of youth services, to ensure that essential services
2 are provided to target homelessness and properly aligned within
3 the department.

4 (b) The department of human services shall submit a report
5 of its findings and recommendations, including the
6 effectiveness, progress, and success of programs that target
7 homelessness within the department, and any proposed
8 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
9 to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
13 the purpose of establishing a three-year homeless employment
14 grant program.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
18 2059.



Report Title:

Homeless Employment Grant Program; Homelessness Programs;
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 DHS to submit a report on the progress of the grant program. Requires DHS to submit a report on the progress of homelessness programs. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2059. (HD1)

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