



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

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

**SUBJECT: HB2117 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. In addition, the Coordinator respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish a three-year Homeless Employment Grant Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. The bill also appropriates funds for the program and requires DHS to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2021 Regular Session.

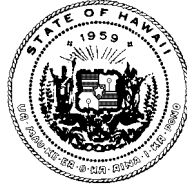
Job training and apprenticeship programs are key strategies to assist homeless individuals in growing income and preventing returns to homelessness following housing placement. In 2009, the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) implemented a Job Training Program in partnership with the Next Step shelter in Kakaako. By providing custodial and maintenance jobs to Next Step residents, the program provided on-the-job training to homeless individuals and assisted with the maintenance and beautification of the park properties under HCDA's jurisdiction. Today, the Job Training Program has expanded beyond Kakaako Makai to include opportunities for job placement at other sites, including programs that provide participants with entry-level positions in the human services field. In addition, since 2017, Maui County has funded and administered a similar program that employs

homeless individuals to clean and maintain County sidewalks in Wailuku and allows on-the-job training that can lead to more skilled positions longer term.

The Coordinator notes that this bill is modeled after a program in Albuquerque, New Mexico that is administered with the City of Albuquerque's Department of Solid Waste. In the Albuquerque program, the Department of Solid Waste hired homeless individuals to assist with landscape beautification and garbage removal and provided the individuals with direct on-site supervision. While DHS administers a variety of employment and job training programs for public benefit recipients, these programs are more general in nature than the City of Albuquerque program that the Employment Grant Program is modeled after.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 28, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2117 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:00 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 the bill 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.

According to the National Alliance for Ending Homelessness, meaningful and sustainable employment is the key to creating and maintaining 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 participants to gain meaningful and sustainable income is one strategy to help fill in the gap.

DHS has a number of existing programs statewide that provide job training and opportunities available to homeless clients with children. Programs such as SEE Hawaii Work assist families with children who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Temporary

Assistance for Other Needy Families financial benefits, and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Employment and Training Program provides services for individuals who receive SNAP benefits. The City and County of Honolulu has the Rent to Work program, exclusive to individuals experiencing homelessness.

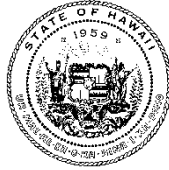
Homeless services agencies across the continuum have also recognized that securing or increasing income through employment will help place participants into permanent housing and keep them housed. The Institute of Human Services' (IHS) Hele2Work has been successful in providing complete services from 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 that participants could gain access to jobs that pay more than the minimum wage.

Regarding section 2. (b), DHS recommends including chapter 103F –Purchases of Health and Human Services.

DHS respectfully request that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget. With additional resources, DHS will work with stakeholders, other executive departments, and the University of Hawaii to identify available public-sector jobs and to develop a viable plan. Additionally, we anticipate that individuals participating in this pilot will require additional support services to maintain employment as well as housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:00 AM

H.B. NO. 2117  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2117. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this bill and makes the following recommendations:

The SPO has found that the time taken to procure for goods and services inside of a three-year pilot materially reduces the period in which mission is to be achieved. Therefore, SPO recommends three-year pilots are exempt from the competitive requirement of the procurement code for the period of the three years only.

SPO requests addition of verbiage to ensure the exemption allowance is not abused with contracts awarded beyond the scope period of the pilot:

Add to Section 2, (b), page 3, line 4: "Exemption from requirements of chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall apply only during the pilot period. Contracts, entered into during the pilot period, shall not extend beyond the pilot end date of June 30, 2023."

Thank you.

# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

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 Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

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

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 31, 2020

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## Testimony in Support of HB 2117 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2117 Relating to Homelessness.

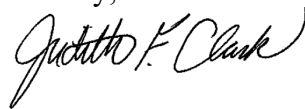
Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education and lack employment experience.

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

Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nadine K. Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
HB2117

Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
9:00 A.M in House Conference Room 329

My name is Amanda Mundon, I am a student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am in **strong support** of HB2117. I support this bill because it will bring aid to those who are homeless. The pilot program will provide temporary employment in public services and connect homeless individuals with social service providers to better assist their needs.

I have seen firsthand how homelessness negatively affects the lives of loved ones. My relative was once addicted to drugs and found herself homeless. She frequently got tickets for panhandling or sleeping on park benches but she genuinely had nowhere else to go. Homeless individuals typically don't have the funds to pay citations. Therefore, citations typically make the problem worse. Being homeless is hard enough; I see no point to add non-violent crimes to their record when connection with social service providers will better serve their issues. I believe it is through pilot programs like this that offer beneficial services to homeless individuals. This three-year grant program will allow the Department of Human Services to offer employment aid to homeless individuals.

Again, I support this bill because it will allow homeless individuals the opportunity to gain lawful employment, allow continuous homeless outreach, and offer diversion for unsheltered individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB2117.

Amanda Mundon

**HB-2117**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:01:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2117 to help the homeless, many of whom would love to be able to help themselves but just need assistance to do this.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



**HB-2117**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:28:20 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY  
CLYDE K. HO  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE ML-GL

February 5, 2020

**LATE**

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2117, Relating to Homelessness

I am Mike Lambert, Captain of the Community Outreach Unit of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2117, Relating to Homelessness.

The City and County of Honolulu is currently experiencing a homeless crisis. Cost of living continues to be a challenge for low income and homeless individuals. The unsheltered community reports difficulty reentering the workforce for various reasons.

The unsheltered community could benefit from additional programs to assist individuals reentering the workplace. House Bill No. 2117 offers a unique solution to a challenging issue.

The HPD is committed to ensuring public safety. Programs which provide alternative income options for homeless individuals could have a positive effect on property crime.

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
February 5, 2020  
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The HPD respectfully urges you to support House Bill No. 2117, Relating to Homelessness.

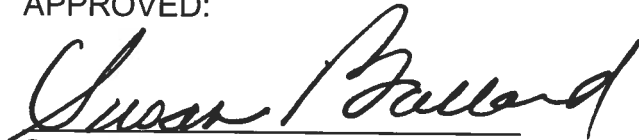
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lambert", written in a cursive style.

Mike Lambert, Captain  
Community Outreach Unit

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard", written in a cursive style.

Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police



Tuesday, February 4, 2020

House Bill 2117  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in support of HB2117. As you are all well aware of our continued fight against homelessness we ask that you please pass this bill to fund employment projects that will both benefit those looking for meaningful work to keep them engaged and on a path towards increasing their financial stability as well as beautifying the city. From a Star Advertiser article (see below) last week, "just on Oahu, he said, an estimated 14,870 individuals received homeless services — and 6,924 of them (or 47%) were "new" to the homeless service system in 2019." These individuals may not all be actively "on the street" but they are vulnerable to being houseless again soon, and those who are living unsheltered are particularly at risk for drug use, theft, and other illegal activities if they do not have an option for work. Those who are "newly" houseless are usually much more visible and seeking out services and would be a great fit for this pilot program.

This bill mentions a pilot program in New Mexico, but we are including an article (see below) for your review, from a similar program in Denver that has also had fantastic results. Here's Jeffrey Maes' story:

"In the first year after the program's launch in November 2016, Denver Human Services says 284 people worked at least a day — with all but 10 sticking around longer — performing landscaping duties in parks, helping out at the Denver Elections Division, aiding public-works crews and other job assignments.

Of those participants, Maes was among 110 who found full-time work, with 15 landing permanent or project-based city jobs and the rest finding work with dozens of outside private and public employers.

'When you take a good person (who's) down, broken, discouraged, and you give them an opportunity to be proud of their self — to stand up and do something for their self — that's one of the greatest gifts anybody can give to anybody,' said Maes, 57. 'And for that, I'd like to say thank you.'"

This is a beautiful step-in-the-right-direction sort of project that will benefit the individuals who participate in the program as well as the other community members who get to witness and enjoy the benefits of the beautification and maintenance to shared community areas. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i