

JAN 19 2024

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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 2023 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count, there were  
3 over 4,028 homeless individuals on Oahu. Despite increased  
4 efforts and resources to reduce homelessness in Hawaii,  
5 homelessness has remained a significant issue. Homeless  
6 individuals often rely on panhandling for income. Citations and  
7 jail time for panhandling can be disruptive and exacerbate the  
8 problem. Further, it has often been difficult for service  
9 providers to connect with homeless individuals and identify the  
10 services they need, including mental health or substance abuse  
11 treatment.

12           The legislature recognizes that pilot programs throughout  
13 the United States provide homeless individuals with temporary  
14 work while providing easy access to services. A pilot program  
15 launched in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2015 has received  
16 national attention. The program connects homeless individuals  
17 with work cleaning up public spaces and is proving to be a



1 success. A similar program introduced in Tucson, Arizona  
2 assists homeless individuals with temporary 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 thus are  
6 not available to the vast majority of homeless individuals in  
7 communities throughout the State. The legislature also finds  
8 that since problems like graffiti and litter remain prevalent  
9 throughout Hawaii, the State could employ homeless individuals  
10 to help reduce those problems.

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

- 13 (1) Assists homeless individuals by providing them  
14 temporary jobs in public service; and
- 15 (2) Connects homeless individuals with service providers.

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

19 (b) The department of human services shall contract with a  
20 service provider or other qualified person or entity to  
21 administer the program; provided that the contract shall be



1 exempt from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
2 provided further that the period of performance of these  
3 contracts shall not exceed the three-year term on the homeless  
4 employment grant program.

5 (c) The homeless employment grant program shall:

- 6 (1) Conduct an assessment to ensure screening for  
7 employment barriers, income, skills, and desires;  
8 (2) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;  
9 (3) Pay individuals in the program for the hours they work  
10 each day, which may include a limited amount of time  
11 spent with service providers; provided that the source  
12 of funding for the payments shall be the homeless  
13 employment grant program's funds;  
14 (4) Assist homeless individuals with shallow funding  
15 assistance to remove barriers related to obtaining  
16 employment, which may include a limited amount of  
17 funds; provided that the source of funding for the  
18 payments shall be the homeless employment grant  
19 program's funds;  
20 (5) Coordinate with homeless outreach, shelter, and case  
21 management services to ensure homeless individuals



1           being served are part of the State's coordinated entry  
2           system and can access permanent housing resources;

3           (6) When appropriate, transport participants in the  
4           program to a shelter at the end of the work day; and

5           (7) Conduct trainings on financial literacy skills that  
6           are necessary to manage money and develop long-term  
7           self-sufficiency.

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

11          (e) The State shall be immune from suit and liability for  
12          any claim for damage to or loss of property, personal injury, or  
13          other civil liability caused, arising out of, or relating to any  
14          actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred at any  
15          stage of the planning and administration of the homeless  
16          employment grant program.

17          (f) The department of human services shall submit a report  
18          that includes:

19           (1) The progress made toward implementing the homeless  
20           employment grant program;

21           (2) Any findings and recommendations; and



1           (3) Any necessary proposed legislation,  
2 to the legislature no later than twenty days before the  
3 convening of the regular session of 2025.

4           SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
5 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
7 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
8 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
9 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
10 \$           or           per cent. This current declaration takes  
11 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
12 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
13 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
14 ceiling are that:

- 15           (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
16           serve the public interest; and  
17           (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
18           addressed by this Act.

19           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for



1 the purpose of establishing a three-year homeless employment  
2 grant program.

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

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:                     *Alan*                    



# S.B. NO. 2661

**Report Title:**

DHS; Pilot Program; Homeless Employment Grant Program; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Homeless Employment Grant Program, a three-year pilot program, that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Department of Human Services to report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.

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

