
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 2018 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count, there were
3 over 4,495 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, such as 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
10 worked in the day, which may include a limited amount
11 of time spent with service providers; provided that
12 the source of funding for the payments shall be the
13 homeless 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 for 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 2020.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2020-2021 for the purpose of establishing a three-year
9 homeless employment grant program.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2059.



Report Title:

Homeless Employment Grant Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a three-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 2020 Regular Session. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 1/1/2059. (SD1)

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