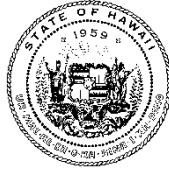


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, April 5, 2018, 10:30 AM

HOUSE BILL 2019, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2019, HD1, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this bill has comments about the exemption language on page Section 2(b), pages 2 to 3, lines 19-20 and 1-2.

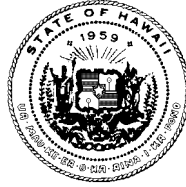
“The department of human services shall contract with a service provider or other qualified person or entity to administer the program; provided that the contract shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.”

The SPO appreciates that pilot programs of a period of 3 years or less should be authorized an exemption to the procurement code for the purpose of actuating the mission within that period. In order to prevent the department from procuring exempt contracts for a period of performance beyond the pilot, the SPO recommends the following verbiage be added to Section 2(b):

“(b) The department of human services shall contract with a service provider or other qualified person or entity to administer the program; provided that the contract shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes and where the period of performance of these contracts does not exceed the term of the pilot program.”

The SPO further recommends that if in the administration of the program, additional subcontracts for direct services as defined in HRS 103F are required; then the bill should include an exemption from 103F and the period of performance of these contracts should not exceed the term of the pilot program.

Thank you.



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

April 5, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2019 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Thursday, April 5, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill establishes a 3-year homeless employment grant program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers to begin 7/1/2020. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature on the program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

DHS has a number of existing programs that provide job training and opportunities available to homeless clients with children. Programs such as SEE Hawaii Work, (<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/see/>), assist families with children who receive Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) financial benefits, and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Employment and Training Program (SNAP E&T) 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 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 participants gain access to jobs that pay more than the minimum wage.

DHS will begin to assess the administrative and other expenses required to establish such a program. However, we ask that that should this measure proceed that it not supplant resources from identified priorities and ongoing programs, and that the committee continue to support the Governor's supplemental budget request to address homelessness and the framework plan established to address homelessness in Hawaii.

DHS requests that the effective date of the measure give DHS enough time to develop the program, consult with our partners, implement rules, and procure required services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

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 Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

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

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

April 3, 2018

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2019 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2019 HD 1 SD 1 Relating to Homelessness.

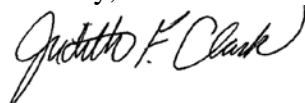
Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They have not completed their education and lack employment experience. In the 2017 Homeless Point-in-Time count, more than 80% were unsheltered.

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

Good morning everyone,

My name is Sajja Koirala, and I am a masters student in social work at the University of Hawaii. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 2019. As we all know, homelessness is a serious problem in Hawaii, and I believe this bill is a good initiative in alleviating this problem. Through my practicum at Helping Hands Hawaii, I work closely with homeless individuals, and I have witnessed how a job and proper resources can make a difference in people's lives. A particular example comes to mind. I started seeing a client who was homeless and has a serious mental disorder when I first joined Helping Hands. This person really wanted to do something meaningful with her life, but did not know how to navigate the system, and she was turned down by many companies for work. By a stroke of miracle, some good folks at a cleaning company decided to give her a chance by hiring her, and I was amazed by the changes it had on her. She appeared withdrawn, sad, angry and even refused to participate in many of our sessions before, however, I started dealing with a happy, chatty, hopeful and very engaged client after she started work.

Research has shown that homeless individuals thrive in structured environment, and the positive psychological effects like an increase in self-esteem and self-respect of people going to work every day are well-documented. In December 1993, a group of recently and formerly homeless people wrote to the New York Times sharing their stories of how having a job and receiving help was crucial in enhancing the quality of their lives.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1993/12/23/opinion/l-people-don-t-stop-being-homeless-till-they-find-self-esteem-623293.html>

The intent of this bill is noble, and I do hope you all will support HB2019.

Thank you,

Sajja Koirala