



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

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April 04, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2647 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Monday, April 04, 2016, 9:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent and offers comments in regard to this measure.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to assist homeless individuals in finding jobs by requiring the City and County of Honolulu to establish a three-year pilot program connecting homeless individuals who are willing to work with job opportunities.

While the Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure, it is also noted that this measure is limited to the island of Oahu, and would not address employment programs for homeless individuals on the neighbor islands. In addition, this program may duplicate the existing efforts of other public and privately funded programs that currently provide job opportunities specifically targeted at individuals who are homeless. For example, the Hawaii Community Development Authority currently funds a job training program that employs residents of the Next Step homeless shelter as janitorial and trash removal services in Kakaako Makai.

The Coordinator also raises concerns relating to Section 2(d) of the measure, which states, "If the city and county of Honolulu is unable to establish a work for a day pilot program ... all remaining funds for the work for a day pilot program shall be transferred from the

governor's coordinator on homelessness to the department of human services to be distributed to fund existing programs that assist homeless individuals in finding work opportunities.”

The Coordinator does not currently have the staff or capacity to conduct procurement, or to directly administer contracts for services. While the role of the Coordinator is to establish and coordinate State policy to address homelessness, the Coordinator is not responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless programs. The Coordinator respectfully suggests that the remaining funds, if any, from the City be transferred directly to DHS, and that DHS be given sufficient authority and flexibility to expend or disperse the funds to support homeless efforts not limited to employment related services.

If funds are transferred directly from the City to DHS, the Coordinator requests that DHS have the discretion to determine the best use of those funds to implement the State strategy to end homelessness. One potential use of funds would be to support data analysis and training related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). While the Legislature proposed funding key components of the State strategy to end homelessness (e.g. Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, and homeless outreach), the Coordinator notes there is no current vehicle to include funding to support improvement to the HMIS and for data analysis. DHS requested \$250,000 in the Executive Budget for HMIS training and data analysis, but this item was not funded in HB1700 HD1. The HMIS is a requirement to receive federal funds, and the lack of adequate training for HMIS may place federal funding at risk. The HMIS is used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families. Better data collection will lead to overall system improvement with the ability to analyze performance measures, use of resources, provider accountability, and program implementation with fidelity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, April 4, 2016, 9:15 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 2647, H.D. 2, S.D. 1,  
Relating to Homelessness

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 2647, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which would establish a Work for a Day Pilot Program to be administered by the City and County of Honolulu to provide homeless individuals with work opportunities.

Homeless individuals encounter significant barriers in seeking employment in Hawaii. Many individuals do not have access to a car and thus rely on public transportation for job-seeking; as a result, these individuals must actually *pay* to apply for jobs and attend subsequent interviews. Homeless persons who are unable to use technology, the internet, and online employment databases face even greater difficulties in seeking employment. These factors may be further compounded by lack of childcare, education, and marketable skills and by chronic physical or mental illnesses or disabilities. Creating a program to connect homeless individuals with existing employment opportunities would help reduce these barriers and end the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Finlay  
Advocacy Coordinator  
ACLU of Hawaii

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.*

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Senator Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Chair

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Committee on Ways and Means

RE: H.B. 2647, HD2, SD1

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016

Time and Place: 9:15am, Conference Room 211 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Introduction:

My name is Alyssa Foster, I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa pursuing my Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. I am writing my third testimony in support of HB 2647, HD2, SD1.

Content:

I feel that this bill will be part of a solution towards ending homelessness. I am aware of other state's successes with the Work for a Day Pilot Program and feel that the City and County of Honolulu could also benefit from its' implementation. This pilot program would provide enhanced connections and stability with the community through outreach and labor. I also feel that this program is a humane effort which works to enable people towards their goal of become housed. There are many different ideas and programs out there, using an established and effective program is vital in accomplishing real strides in eradicating homelessness in Hawai'i.

Closing:

I sincerely hope that this committee will take into consideration the programs' success and usefulness by passing this bill. In passing the Work for a Day Pilot Program bill we are saying that we want to uplift our homeless community by choosing effective solutions.

Alyssa Foster

UH Manoa, MSW graduate student

Honolulu, HI 96822

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 1:28 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2647 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM

**HB2647**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think this is a wonderful idea, and maybe something that can be broadened to also encompass people who have been out of a job for over 2 years or better incentive programs for those on unemployment.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 5:37 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2647 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM\*

**HB2647**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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