
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the
3 2016 point-in-time, the number of homeless people in Hawaii rose
4 by about four per cent from 2015 to 2016. Despite increased
5 efforts and resources to reduce homelessness in Hawaii,
6 homelessness, has remained a significant issue. Homeless
7 individuals often rely on panhandling for income. Citations and
8 jail time for panhandling can be disruptive and exacerbate the
9 problem. Further, it has often been difficult for service
10 providers to connect with homeless individuals and identify the
11 services they need, such as mental health or substance abuse
12 treatment.

13 The legislature recognizes that pilot programs throughout
14 the United States provide homeless individuals with temporary
15 work while providing easy access to services. A pilot program
16 launched in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has received national
17 attention. The program connects homeless individuals with work



1 cleaning up public spaces and is proving to be a success. A
2 similar program introduced in Tucson, Arizona, assists homeless
3 individuals with temporary jobs.

4 The legislature further finds that in Hawaii, some service
5 providers assist homeless individuals with temporary work.
6 However, those programs are limited to small areas, and thus are
7 not available to the vast majority of homeless individuals in
8 communities throughout the State. The legislature also finds
9 that since problems like graffiti and litter remain prevalent
10 throughout Hawaii, the State could employ homeless individuals
11 to help reduce those problems.

12 The purpose of this part is to establish a pilot program
13 that:

- 14 (1) Assists homeless individuals with a path to employment
15 in the general workforce and pre-vocational training
16 for those who require such a transition;
- 17 (2) Allows homeless individuals who face barriers and
18 stigmas based on their background to seek employment
19 opportunities; and
- 20 (3) Connects homeless individuals with service providers.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year homeless
2 employment pilot program that shall be administered by the
3 department of labor and industrial relations.

4 (b) The homeless employment pilot program shall:

5 (1) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;

6 (2) Pay individuals in the program for the hours they
7 worked in the day, which may include a limited amount
8 of time spent with service providers; provided that
9 the source of funding for the payments shall be the
10 homeless employment pilot program's funds;

11 (3) Qualify homeless individuals for and connect them to
12 housing programs; and

13 (4) When appropriate, transport participants in the
14 program to a shelter at the end of the work day.

15 (c) The homeless individuals who work pursuant to
16 subsection (b) shall not be considered employees of the State
17 solely as a result of their work in the homeless employment
18 pilot program.

19 (d) The State shall be immune from suit and liability for
20 any claim for damage to or loss of property, personal injury, or
21 other civil liability caused, arising out of, or relating to any



1 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred at any
2 stage of the planning and administration of the homeless
3 employment pilot program.

4 (e) The department of labor and industrial relations shall
5 submit a report that includes:

- 6 (1) The progress on the homeless employment pilot program;
- 7 (2) Any findings and recommendations; and
- 8 (3) Any necessary proposed legislation,

9 to the legislature no later than twenty days before the
10 convening of the regular session of 2018.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2018-2019 for the purpose of establishing a three-year homeless
16 employment pilot program.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this part.

19 PART II

20 SECTION 4. (a) The auditor shall conduct a study to
21 assess the impact of using medicaid funds to provide coverage



1 for the treatment for homelessness, including the costs to
2 provide coverage for the chronically homeless population in the
3 State; provided that for the purposes of this part, "treatment"
4 or "treatment for homelessness" includes:

- 5 (1) Behavioral health services, including mental health
6 and substance abuse services;
- 7 (2) Case management;
- 8 (3) Personal care and personal assistance services;
- 9 (4) Home and community-based services; and
- 10 (5) Housing services.

11 (b) The auditor shall submit findings and recommendations,
12 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
14 of 2018.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the
18 purpose of conducting a study to assess the impact of using
19 medicaid funds to provide coverage for the treatment of
20 homelessness; provided that no funds appropriated under this



1 part shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar with
2 federal funds.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
4 auditor for the purposes of this part.

5 PART III

6 SECTION 6. (a) The department of human services, in
7 collaboration with the department of health, shall review the
8 progress of the Hawaii pathways project pilot and continue to
9 pursue efforts to utilize medicaid to provide supportive housing
10 services for chronically homeless individuals.

11 (b) In planning for the expansion of supportive housing
12 services provided through medicaid managed care plans, the
13 department of human services shall consider the following:

14 (1) Benefit eligibility, including criteria related to:

15 (A) Health conditions;

16 (B) Housing status; and

17 (C) Current or potential system costs;

18 (2) Supportive housing services, including but not limited
19 to:

20 (A) Outreach and engagement;

21 (B) Housing search assistance;



- 1 (C) Tenancy rights and responsibilities education;
- 2 (D) Eviction prevention;
- 3 (E) Service plan development;
- 4 (F) Coordination with primary care and health homes;
- 5 (G) Coordination with substance use treatment
- 6 providers;
- 7 (H) Coordination with mental health providers;
- 8 (I) Coordination of vision and dental providers;
- 9 (J) Coordination with hospitals and emergency
- 10 departments;
- 11 (K) Crisis intervention and critical time
- 12 intervention;
- 13 (L) Independent living skills coaching; and
- 14 (M) Linkages to education, job skills training, and
- 15 employment;
- 16 (3) Applying to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- 17 Services to pursue an amendment of the state 1115
- 18 medicaid waiver;
- 19 (4) Financing and reinvestment strategies, including:
- 20 (A) Health care costs and housing status of current
- 21 medicaid beneficiaries;



- 1 (B) The degree to which accurate and up-to-date
2 information on housing status is available for
3 current medicaid beneficiaries;
- 4 (C) Health care costs of current residents of
5 supportive housing;
- 6 (D) Health care costs of the medicaid-expansion
7 population;
- 8 (E) Potential impact on costs to other systems, such
9 as jails, long-term care, and treatment
10 facilities;
- 11 (F) Affordable housing investments that can be
12 leveraged to create new units of supportive
13 housing; and
- 14 (G) Amount of flexible service dollars available to
15 cover the costs that medicaid cannot; and
- 16 (5) Administration of the benefit, including:
- 17 (A) The role of managed care;
- 18 (B) The role of supportive housing service providers;
19 and
- 20 (C) Coordination with existing and emerging systems.



1 (c) The department of human services shall submit a report
2 to the legislature regarding the status of its efforts,
3 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
4 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018. The
5 report shall include:

6 (1) The status of the proposed amendment to expand the
7 state 1115 medicaid waiver;

8 (2) A description of supportive housing services to be
9 provided to the chronically homeless population; and

10 (3) Proposed eligibility criteria to qualify for
11 supportive housing services.

12 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the
15 purposes of this part; provided that no funds appropriated under
16 this part shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar
17 with federal funds.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 human services for the purposes of this part.

20 PART IV

21 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2075.



Report Title:

Homeless Employment Pilot Program; Homelessness; Study; Auditor; Medicaid; Housing Services; Appropriation

Description:

Part I: Establishes a three-year Homeless Employment Pilot Program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2018 Regular Session on implementing the program. Appropriates funds to establish the pilot program. Part II: Requires the auditor to conduct a study to assess the impact of using medicaid funds to provide coverage for the treatment for homelessness. Requires the auditor to submit a report to the legislature. Makes an appropriation. Part III: Requires the department of human services, in collaboration with the department of health, to review the progress of the Hawaii pathways project pilot and continue to pursue efforts to utilize medicaid to provide supportive housing services for chronically homeless individuals. Provides considerations for the department in planning for the expansion of supportive housing services provided through medicaid managed care plans. Requires the department to report to the legislature. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 7/1/2075. (SD1)

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