
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 2017 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count, the number
3 of homeless people on Oahu has risen by nearly fourteen per cent
4 since 2012. Despite increased efforts and resources to reduce
5 homelessness in Hawaii, homelessness has remained a significant
6 issue. Homeless individuals often rely on panhandling for
7 income. Citations and jail time for panhandling can be
8 disruptive and exacerbate the problem. Further, it has often
9 been difficult for service providers to connect with homeless
10 individuals and identify the services they need, such as mental
11 health or substance abuse 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 governor's coordinator on homelessness.

19 (b) The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall
20 contract with a service provider or other qualified person or



1 entity to administer the program; provided that the contract
2 shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 (c) The homeless employment grant program shall:

4 (1) Connect homeless individuals with work opportunities;

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

10 (3) Connect homeless individuals with service providers at
11 the appropriate time; and

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

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

17 (e) The State shall be immune from suit and liability for
18 any claim for damage to or loss of property, personal injury, or
19 other civil liability caused, arising out of, or relating to any
20 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred at any



1 stage of the planning and administration of the homeless
2 employment grant program.

3 (f) The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall
4 submit a report that includes:

5 (1) The progress made toward implementing the homeless
6 employment grant 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 2019.

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 2018-2019 for the
14 purpose of establishing a three-year homeless employment grant
15 program.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 human services with the approval of the governor's coordinator
18 on homelessness for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 2019

Report Title:

Homeless Employment Grant Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a 3-year homeless employment grant program that provides homeless individuals with work opportunities and connects them with service providers. Requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2019 Regular Session on implementing the program. Appropriates funds.

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