



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

February 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 533 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2013; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329; State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 533 is to establish a Return-To-Home program for qualified homeless individuals to return to their home state if there is a support network available and able to receive them. This measure would also appropriate general funds and is effective July 1, 2013.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of this bill but has reservations about the cost implications and impact this proposal may have on the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The DHS also has concerns about the prescriptive language of the services to be provided, liability related to the requirements for behavioral and physical health assessments and the costs associated with the same, the requirement to obtain sufficient identification to enable travel, the costs associated with the acquisition of identification which can, in some cases, be a burdensome procedure requiring the assistance of legal counsel, and the need to verify the individual's arrest, parole, or

probation status and ensure proper clearance to leave the State as this may require extensive interaction with a variety of law enforcement agencies, public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, and others. Finally, the DHS takes exception to the suggestion that homeless persons are in need of “sufficient personal hygiene”, as an unnecessary and inappropriate stereotype.

In short, the DHS Homeless Programs Office does not have the staffing or fiscal resources to administer this program. Providing transportation for a homeless individual back to their home state will not guarantee that the individual will not return to Hawaii and again become a consumer of homeless services in our state. The provisions of this bill may also be seen by those who might exploit it, as an invitation to come to Hawaii and partake of homeless services here, with an expectation that they will receive a free trip home.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 12:32 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 12, 2013 09:30AM*

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HB533

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HUS on Feb 12, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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