

SB 385

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

Report Title: Homelessness; Return-to-Home Program; Appropriation (\$)

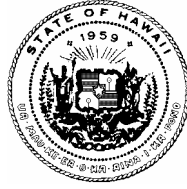
Description: Establishes the return-to-home program to assist eligible homeless individuals return to their home state if there is a support network available and the support network is able to receive them. Makes appropriation. Effective July 1, 2013.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND (Introduced by request of another party)



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

January 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 385 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Saturday, January 26, 2013; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 385 is to establish a Return-to-Home Program to assist eligible 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 of 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: c_pomponio@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB385 on Jan 26, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 2:41:57 PM

SB385

Submitted on: 1/23/2013

Testimony for HMS on Jan 26, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathleen Pomponio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My comments are as follows: I agree 100% with this concept and think it's an excellent solution to the on-going problems that we encounter here in Honolulu. I would call the program "Homeward Bound". One additional idea is to try to link homeless individuals with YMCA's or YWCA's in their hometowns. Many local Y's have programs that cater to those people who face multiple problems such as employment; and many Y's also have inexpensive housing alternatives for their client base. Hope it works.

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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