



## **My Drift**

**Title: Homeless Solution**

**Compiled By: Jerry D. Petersen**

**(Guest Contributor: Steven Barnes)**

**Date: 11 Jan 2024**

**Article Number: (442-2024-1)**

*I started writing these articles in June 2006. Well, I have written more articles about the “Homeless Problem” than any other subject. In fact, the first 4 articles were about the homeless. The problem was bad then and it is much worse now. Why can’t our leaders do something about it? Over the years, I have made several recommendations, but nobody listens to me. So anyway, I have been looking for some fresh ideas or solutions for solving this major problem here in Hawaii.*

*Below is a new approach from a friend and former co-worker Steven Barnes. Please read his ideas and if you have any comments or a better solution, let me know.*



**Downtown Honolulu**

## **Homeless - Houseless**

**Fact - Hawaii is one of the top five most expensive places in the United States to live.**

### **5 Most Expensive Place to Live in the US**

- 1. New York City**
- 2. Los Angeles**
- 3. San Francisco**
- 4. Honolulu (Hawaii)**
- 5. Washington, D.C**

**I remember many years ago during an interview with Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, where he explained that when he was a child living in Hawaii, his family moved to the mainland. He was asked why if they loved Hawaii, they moved. Johnson's response was, "We couldn't afford to live here, so we had to move". And that becomes the question. The homeless that are here, if they can't afford a roof over their head, feed themselves and look after themselves, why are they here? Why are they allowed to live here if they can't look after their own lives? If someone with a family and a job realizes they can't afford to live here and have to move, why are people allowed to stay here – outside – as a burden to the city, the state government, and Hawaii citizens who are paying their own way?**

**Let's make this simple. Anyone without a home/house, anyone living on the street or the beach or a park – also known as "Outside", is a ward of the state. They don't support themselves, so they are dependent on the state. So, the state can decide where to put them and/or how to support them. The homeless person has lost their right to decide when they live outside and as a burden to the state and Hawaii's hardworking people.**

**The state takes such satisfaction and pride announcing they are conducting the annual homeless headcount. Usually, it's about 5,000 people. The state and city routinely announce they have put aside money for the homeless problem. And they have a homeless czar and staff to manage the situation. I can recall seeing the announcements that between \$50 and \$240 million has been set aside. I have no idea where this money went, do you? But clearly, it's not enough or all it did was maintain the status quo for X months or years, because we still have homeless living outside.**

**So, we are not fixing the problem! What we should not be doing is this: We are not spending \$300,000-\$500,000 on little houses on state land for one or two**

**people to live that the taxpayers fund for each of the 5,000 homeless. We are not building or buying homes for people that clearly are not supporting themselves here.**



**Money Magazine has determined (more than once) that the two least expensive places to live in the United States are: Youngstown, OH and Jonesboro, AK. I propose a complete paradigm change. The next time we have \$50-250 million to toss to the homeless problem, we do this:**

- 1. Announce a plan that explains this process and why. Clearly, we need a buy in from the people living in Hawaii. This should not be hard. Then the announced plan will explain that this is the last time we the people via our government are going to provide funding for the homeless. They get on board with this or else.**
- 2. Pass legislation that supports this effort/plan. This won't be so easy.**
- 3. Take the "wad" of monies for the homeless and divide it by the number of homeless as of that date. For the purposes of this explanation its \$100 million divided by 5,000 head count. That's a sum-per of about \$20,000 for each homeless person.**
- 4. We send our homeless czar to Jonesboro or Youngstown or any other worthy location to orchestrate the rental of 5,000 apartments or homes each with a 1-year lease. I estimate this cost to be \$12,000 per apartment/home. That leaves \$8,000 for living expenses for the length of the lease.**

**5. We reserved approximately \$500 per \$20,000 for airline tickets and we move those 5,000 homeless and set them up for 1 year at our expense. They have one year to learn to support themselves, find work, get their act together and/or move to another town/city if they wish. But we will no longer provide them support and they don't get to come back here.**

### **OR ELSE**

**For the homeless that refuse or don't want to move to Jonesboro or Youngstown. Here's your only option:**

**The city and/or state finds a site in the middle of the island that has no businesses, infrastructure, no schools, no roads, or electricity. They buy and construct a tent city camp. We interview able bodied homeless and train them to be security guards and manage their camp. We put in showers and port-a-potties. We install solar and build out power to tents, that allows electrify during daylight hours. We have one road in and out. No cars are allowed past the front gate.**

**We gather up all the homeless, also known as wards of the state, and bus them to the camp. They live there vice all over the island. They can graduate from the camp when they can pass a skill test, get a job, and find a place to live on their own without the support of the state.**



**This is a Tent City in Virginia Beach**

**The city builds and opens a kitchen. Food is supplied from the Hawaii Food Bank of those loose items single cans donations that are not cost effective to**



distribute to “clients”. We encourage charities and pantries around the island to support the camp on a rotating basis, doing the cooking and serving the camp members.

**Bottomline: We must get the homeless (wards of the state) off our streets, parks, and beaches.**

**[Bigdrifter44@gmail.com](mailto:Bigdrifter44@gmail.com)**

**[Bigdrifter.com](http://Bigdrifter.com)**