agencies are already required to maintain and update a baseline inventory of activities that could be performed by the private sector. S. 314 would largely codify current administrative policy.●

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish to engage my colleague, Senator DEWINE, in a colloquy.

I thank Senator JEFFORDS, and the other members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources for your collective efforts in passing H.R. 1385, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. This bill promises to improve and revitalize our country's workforce system and will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our federal job training programs.

As you know, Texas has been in the forefront of the remaking its state and local workforce delivery system. Beginning in 1993, Texas created a system very similar to one embodied in HR 1385. As with this federal legislation, the new Texas system is based on the principles of local control, customer service, and consolidation.

In this regard, I commend you for recognizing in the bill the uniqueness and foresight of the Texas workforce system by providing flexibility in the bill for our state to fully implement its new laws.

Specifically, I understand that HR 1385 provides that Texas will be able to maintain use of its Human Resource Investment Council (known as the Texas Council for Workforce and Economic Competitiveness) as defined in Texas statute and regulation to fulfill the State Board requirements under Section 111. In addition, Section 117(I) provides that Texas will be able to maintain the Local Workforce Development Boards as defined in Texas statute and regulation to fulfill the Local Board requirements under Section 117. Section 189(I)(2) provides that Texas may maintain the current local workforce board areas as defined in Texas statute and regulation to fulfill the requirements under section 116, and that no other language in HR 1385 may be construed to force Texas to change the configuration of its 28 local workforce areas. Section 189(I)(3) provides that Texas may maintain its sanctioning process for local boards. Section 194(a)(1)(A) provides that Texas may maintain it current process and formulas for allocating funds under sections 127 and 132 to its local workforce boards and that Texas may maintain it current procedures for disbursing money that is allocated to local workforce boards. Section 194(a)(1)(B) provides that local workforce boards in Texas may maintain their disbursal processes and procedures for monies provided under sections 127 and 132. Section 194(a)(2) provides that Texas may maintain the procedure as defined in Texas statute and regulation through which fiscal agents are designated by local boards for monies provided under sections 127 or 132. Section 194(a)(3) provides that Texas may maintain its process by which local boards designate or select one-stop partners and one-stop operators, notwithstanding any requirements set forth in section 121. Section 194(a)(4) provides that Texas may maintain its requirements that service providers shall not be permitted to perform both intake and training services. Section 194(a)(5) provides that Texas may maintain the roles and functions of its state board (otherwise known as the Texas Council for Workforce and Economic Competitiveness) and that no requirements for elements of state plans shall be construed to force a role or function upon Texas' State Board that is inconsistent with Texas statute or regulation. Section 194(a)(6) provides that Texas may maintain the roles and functions of its Local Boards and that no requirements for elements of state or local plans shall be construed to force a role or function upon Texas' local board that is inconsistent with Texas statute or regulation.

Mr. DEWINE. The Senator is correct, and I, too, share your commitment to preserving the leading edge reforms Texas is implementing.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator. There is, however, one final item on which I request clarification. It is my understanding that the intent of Section 194(a)(4) is to allow Texas to limit providers to provide either intake or training services as defined under section 134.

Mr. DEWINE. The Senator is correct. It was the intent of the Conference Committee to allow Texas this specific flexibility with regard to intake and training providers.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator for his leadership and his assistance and cooperation in ensuring that the intent of this important bill is allowed to be carried-out according to specific state needs and laws.●

STATUS OF THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, a we continue to celebrate the International Year of the Ocean, I would like to inform members of the status and efforts to save the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the only seal endemic to the Hawaiian islands.

As you may know, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of three species of monk seal known in the world. The other two are the Caribbean and Mediterranean monk seal. The last Caribbean monk seal was sighted in 1952 and is thought to be extinct; the Mediterranean monk seal still survives, but barely, with a population of only 500–1,000 individuals. The rarity of the monk seal makes efforts to save the Hawaiian variety all the more urgent.

Monk seals belong to an order known as pinnipedia, which in Latin means feather or flipper footed. This order includes seals, sea lions, and walruses. Walruses are not found in Hawaii because the weather is not cold enough for them to survive; sea lions are also not natural to the area. The only pinniped found in Hawaiian waters is a seal—the Hawaiian monk seal. Although, Hawaiian monk seals predominately inhabit the Northwestern Hawaiian islands, including Kure Atoll, French Frigate Shoals, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef, they are occasionally found in the main Hawaiian islands. In fact, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of only two mammals that are endemic to the Hawaiian islands, the other being the Hoary bat.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) estimates that there is a population of approximately 1,200–1,400 Hawaiian monk seals. This is half of what the population was in the 1950s. Factors threatening this species include entanglement and consumption of marine debris, disturbance by humans and animals on pupping and haul out beaches, mobbing of females by males, and shark predation.

The NMFS is leading the effort to save the Hawaiian monk seal from further endangerment and ultimate extinction. Under federal law, the agency protects Hawaiian monk seals through education, research, and recovery programs. For example, NMFS has appointed a Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery team to help with research programs, data analysis, population assessment, and addressing specific problems such as mobbing, human disturbance, and fishing line/net entanglement. The recovery team's mission is to eliminate the causes leading to the declining monk seal population and recommend how further efforts should be managed to stabilize and impede endangerment of this species.

Throughout the years, NMFS has monitored activity on primary breeding locations and taken appropriate actions to aid young monk seal pups and their mothers to a full and healthy life. In order to do this, NMFS has initiated recovery plans to protect females and their offspring from vicious male mobbing which occurs when adult male monk seals attack pups, juveniles, and sub-adult females, probably mistaking them for breeding females. Some of the efforts that NMFS has launched include removing weaned pups from the beach and placing them in enclosed pens until they are strong enough to be released on their own, relocating monk seal males from areas where they greatly outnumber females, and rehabilitating small abandoned pups until they can be released back into the wild.

NMFS also strives to decrease indirect and direct human activities that result in harmful occurrences, like a seal swallowing marine debris or entangling itself in fishing lines or nets. In order to accomplish the task of cleaning up beaches and ridding the

oceans of debris, NMFS offers information to schools, marine parks, organizations, and individuals who want to learn what they can do to help the recovery of this species. NMFS also sets up signs on beaches where monk seals are most likely to breed or visit informing visitors how to avoid disturbing the sea animals.

Fortunately, the agency is supported by other organizations that have fostered efforts for the recovery of this unique and beautiful species. These include: the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, which assists and supports NMFS's recovery efforts; Earthtrust and the Hawaii Wildlife Fund, which promote awareness of and education about the Hawaiian monk seal; Sea Life Park Hawaii, which has in the past offered rehabilitation for monk seal pups; and Dolphin Quest, which financially supports monk seal recovery efforts.

In addition to these organized efforts to save the monk seal, I should recognize the conservation conscious beachgoers, fishermen, and other individuals, who go out of their way to ensure that their activities do not disturb or harm Hawaiian monk seals or other marine life. By simply picking up trash before they leave the beach, beachgoers can do much to promote the survival of the Hawaiian monk seal. Fishermen can also help by being aware of where they fish and making sure that they do not cast their lines in an area where Hawaiian monk seals may inhabit and accidentally bite onto a baited hook. It is also important to make sure that fishing lines and nets are not left in the ocean for a monk seal to swallow or become entangled in. Thus, conscientious citizens can do much to perpetuate the existence of this special creature.

Mr. President, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of Hawaii's biological treasures. Through the combined efforts of government agencies, community organizations, and ordinary citizens, we may one day witness the full recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal. It is my hope that through the education and preservation of this rare species, more people will learn to respect and value all marine life and, by extension, understand our own relationship to our living environment.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH ON ITS APPROACHING FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Reno, Nevada's Little Flower Catholic Church, which will soon be marking its fiftieth anniversary. This amazing church has truly been a blessing for the people of northern Nevada, as it has become a pillar of strength, inspiration, and hope for the thousands who have passed through its doors.

Little Flower has truly blossomed since its first mass was celebrated on October 17, 1948. Senator Patrick McCarran, Representive Walter Baring and area religious leaders of all denominations were just a few of those who filled the church's 200 seats on that special day. But the time Father Robert Bowling became pastor in 1974, facilities has expanded and the parish had grown to several hundred people. And, during the following year, the parish actually doubled in size. Today, under Father Bowling's continued stewardship, the church ministers to almost four thousand families, reflecting an extraordinary increase—particularly over the last twenty-five years. Moreover, each month, a Little Flower worship service is taped and later aired on local television for the benefit of those who would like to attend mass but are too infirm to do so.

In celebrating this anniversary, I am reminded of the well-known biblical passage that refers to our duty as our brother's keeper. This message is clearly not lost on the Little Flower congregation. While the church is by no means what one would consider wealthy, its parishioners' generosity is boundless. In addition to monthly donations to St. Vincent's shelter, the Little Flower distributes food vouchers to the hungry on a daily basis. A local supermarket honors the certificates and then bills the church at the end of each month. Likewise, gas vouchers are provided to stranded motorists. Bus fare is available for runaways looking to return home and for others caught in similarly difficult straits. Even money for medicine is given to the uninsured poor. Little Flower's policy holds that nobody in need is turned away, and no questions are ever asked.

Yet, Little Flower Catholic Church is not just about worship and charity; it's also a garden of personal and community development. The church operates a school that enrolls three hundred youngsters, providing top-notch religious and academic instruction. In addition, the church sponsors countless organizations such as a Mom's Group, Altar Society, Knights of Columbus, as well as Filipino, Hispanic, and youth-centered choirs. Of course, standard Marriage, Baptism and Sunday school classes are also included in the Little Flower's crowded slate of activities. Sometime I think that if a book could be written about the church's history, it may well be called the Little Flower That Could.

Father Omar, one of the parish priests, is a more recent example of Little Flower's devotion to its parishioners. Born in Colombia, with a heart big enough to fill the world, Father Omar today sets the standard for spirituality and community activism. He is truly a man for others.

Hanging over the entrance of the church chapel is a sign declaring that ''love is spoken here.'' Indeed, it's a language the folks at Little Flower Catholic Church have clearly mastered. The church has embraced newcomers, comforted and cheered the downtrodden, and is one of those special places that brings out the best in all of us. While its history is grand, Little Flower Catholic Church's future promises to be equally as rosy. Congratulations on the approaching fiftieth anniversary to Reno Bishop Phillip Straling, Father Bowling, the church's chapter members, and all of the parishioners that have made it such a sanctuary of unconditional love.●

CATHERINE KENNEDY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, our nation's struggle against the AIDS virus has been a difficult one. More and more Americans are beginning to learn the facts about this disease that has become the leading killer of U.S. adults between the ages of 25 and 44. And in recent years, we have finally begun to devote significant resources toward quality treatment and the search for a cure. But as my colleagues know, for many years, attention to the disease was severely lacking, and only a handful of people in this country were actively working for better treatment of its victims. I am proud to say that one of the true heroes and pioneers in the fight against AIDS hails from Connecticut: Catherine Kennedy of New Haven. Sadly, Mrs. Kennedy recently died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 51.

Catherine Kennedy was active on many fronts in the fight against AIDS, but she is best known for her efforts to establish Connecticut's first nursing home for people afflicted with this disease.

A native of England, Catherine Kennedy moved to New Haven in 1983. Shortly after moving to Connecticut, she noticed the lack of nursing centers and services for people in the area living with AIDS. She saw nursing homes that were refusing care to many individuals. Patients were being kept, at enormous expense, at hospitals that were essentially unequipped to treat them. And other patients were in fact homeless.

Catherine Kennedy took it upon herself to create a nursing home designed specifically to treat persons living with HIV/AIDS who were too sick to stay at home but too healthy to need hospital care. Her efforts were met with great resistance along the way.

But she eventually gained the help of Lucie McKinney, the widow of U.S. Representative Stewart McKinney, who had died of AIDS. Together they were able to convince the Governor and state legislature to support the idea of a treatment center, and a law was passed which provided funding to cover non-hospital care costs for AIDS patients and to convert an old factory in New Haven into a nursing home. She was also able to secure a grant from Yale-New Haven Hospital to help finance the home.

In 1995, eight years after Catherine Kennedy began her efforts to establish this center, Leeway, Inc. opened its