
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OHANA ZONES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
2 continues to be one of Hawaii's most challenging social
3 problems. The 2022 Hawaii statewide homeless point-in-time
4 count identified 5,973 persons in the State experiencing
5 homelessness. Although this represents a decrease of 7.5 per
6 cent since 2020 and is the lowest statewide count since 2010,
7 the costs of caring for homeless persons are rising.

8 The legislature recognizes that in the absence of regular
9 medical and dental care, many homeless persons are forced to
10 seek emergency services. Each year, homeless persons in the
11 State make tens of thousands of emergency hospital visits.
12 Hospital stays for homeless persons cost state hospitals
13 hundreds of millions of dollars per year, and many of the
14 hospitals' costs for homeless care go uncompensated. Ambulance
15 services alone for homeless patients can cost up to \$1,000 per
16 transport.



1 The legislature notes that many states are now using mobile
2 clinics to address the health care needs of their homeless
3 communities. Large cities like Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado;
4 New Orleans, Louisiana; and San Jose, California; use mobile
5 clinics to provide medical care and social services. They offer
6 routine care, dental care, preventive care, disease testing,
7 referral services, and other forms of care to persons who might
8 not otherwise have access. Mobile clinics also allow providers
9 to tailor their services to specific communities and offer
10 flexible care for persons who are isolated, vulnerable, and
11 displaced.

12 The legislature also finds that mobile clinics are more
13 cost-effective than other health services. Estimates show that
14 communities using mobile clinics experience an average of six
15 hundred fewer emergency room visits each year. The routine and
16 preventive care the clinics offer can also reduce the amount of
17 care a person may need over their lifetime. According to Mobile
18 Health Map, for every \$1 spent on mobile health, a state will
19 save \$12.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
2 funds to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to
3 serve homeless persons in the State's ohana zones.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
5 purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve
6 homeless persons residing in ohana zones. The mobile clinic
7 services shall be procured pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes.

9 (b) The staff of each mobile clinic may include:

- 10 (1) One primary care provider;
11 (2) One nurse;
12 (3) One pharmacist;
13 (4) One psychiatrist;
14 (5) One social worker;
15 (6) One outreach worker;
16 (7) Students pursuing degrees in medicine or nursing; and
17 (8) Other staff as needed.

18 (c) The mobile clinics may provide services including:

- 19 (1) Non-emergency medical services for chronic, acute, and
20 episodic conditions;



- 1 (2) Testing for sexually transmitted diseases, human
2 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
- 3 (3) Family planning;
- 4 (4) Child and family services;
- 5 (5) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- 6 (6) Mental health services;
- 7 (7) Dental care;
- 8 (8) Referral services;
- 9 (9) Shower and laundry services;
- 10 (10) Clean clothing;
- 11 (11) Health insurance enrollment;
- 12 (12) Pharmacy services;
- 13 (13) Street medicine; and
- 14 (14) Other assistive services.
- 15 (d) Subject to the availability of funds, the director of
16 human services may designate other political subdivisions or
17 private organizations to participate in the mobile clinics
18 established pursuant to this Act; provided that moneys provided
19 to any other political subdivision or private organization may
20 be by a grant or grant-in-aid as required pursuant to chapter
21 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (e) For purposes of this Act:

2 "Ohana zone" means a place:

3 (1) That has a program to address the basic needs of
4 persons experiencing homelessness; and

5 (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care
6 services, transportation, and other services may be
7 offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and
8 transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness
9 into affordable housing.

10 "Street medicine" means the practice of directly delivering
11 health care and related services to persons found on the
12 streets, in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in
13 abandoned buildings.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
17 purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve
18 homeless persons residing in ohana zones; provided that no funds
19 appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be made available unless
20 matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by other sources of
21 funding; provided further that the department of human services



1 shall identify and secure other sources of funding, including
2 federal funding, to provide the matching funds.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
6 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
8 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
9 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
10 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
11 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
12 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
14 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
15 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
16 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
17 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
18 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 19 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
20 serve the public interest; and



1 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
2 addressed by this Act.
3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DHS; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness; Ohana Zones; Appropriation
Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD1)

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