THE SENATE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019 STATE OF HAWAII S.B. NO. 526 S.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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 the State's most significant and 3 challenging social problems. According to the 2018 Hawaii 4 statewide homeless point-in-time count conducted in January 5 2018, there are 6,530 homeless individuals in the State, an 6 overall decrease of 9.6 per cent from 2017. However, the costs 7 of caring for this population have continued to grow. Homeless 8 persons face a wide range of issues, including general health 9 issues, mental illness, and substance abuse. These issues 10 affecting homeless persons also impact the general population 11 through the costs of social and health care services. In 2016, 12 homeless persons in the State made more than twenty thousand 13 hospital visits. In 2016, state hospitals billed \$214,000 in 14 charges for caring for the homeless, up drastically from 15 \$70,500,000 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is 16 sometimes uncompensated; one hospital alone estimates it incurs 17 more than \$10,000,000 in uncompensated costs annually.

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1 The legislature also finds that mobile clinics are 2 increasing in popularity across the nation as governments try to 3 find ways to address the health care needs of the homeless 4 population. In places such as Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; 5 San Jose, California; and Seattle, Washington, mobile clinics 6 offer a variety of free health care services for local homeless 7 populations, resulting in significant cost savings when compared 8 to emergency room visits. One estimate from 2016 found that 9 each dollar spent on mobile clinics saved twelve dollars in 10 other costs.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for 12 purchasing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve 13 homeless people; provided that one of the mobile clinics be 14 allocated to the county of Hawaii.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is appropriated out of the general 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so 17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and 18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal 19 year 2020-2021 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile 20 clinics to serve homeless individuals; provided that:

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1	(1)	One t	nobile clinic shall be allocated to the county of
2		Hawa	ii;
3	(2)	No fi	unds appropriated pursuant to this section shall
4		be ma	ade available unless the department of human
5		serv	ices obtains matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar
6		basi	s to the amount appropriated by the State;
7	(3)	The a	staff may include one primary care provider, one
8		nurse	e, one pharmacist, one psychiatrist, and other
9		staf	f as needed, including a social worker, an
10		outro	each worker, and students pursuing a degree in
11		medi	cine or nursing; and
12	(4)	The 1	nobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the
13		following services:	
14		(A)	Non-emergency medical services for chronic,
15			acute, and episodic conditions;
16		(B)	Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human
17			immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
18		(C)	Family planning;
19		(D)	Child and family services;
20		(E)	Behavioral health and substance abuse services;

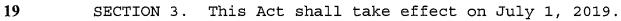
(F) Mental health services;



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1	(G)	Dental care;	
2	(H)	Referral services;	
3	(I)	Shower and laundry services;	
4	(J)	Clean clothing;	
5	(K)	Health insurance enrollment;	
6	(L)	Pharmacy services;	
7	(M)	Street medicine; provided that for the purposes	
8		of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the	
9		practice of directly delivering health care and	
10		related services to persons found on the streets,	
11		in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in	
12		abandoned buildings; and	
13	(N)	Other assistance services;	
14	provided furth	er that the department of human services may	
15	procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapters 103D and		
16	103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.		
17	(b) The	sums appropriated shall be expended by the	
18	department of	human services for the purposes of this Act.	



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Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons; provided that one of the mobile clinics shall be allocated to the county of Hawaii. Requires matching funds. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

