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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN SERVICES, TAXATION, HEALTH,  
AND LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CONDUCT VARIOUS  
INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

1 WHEREAS, for decades, the federal government, State, and  
2 counties have adopted measures and implemented programs to  
3 combat homelessness; and  
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5 WHEREAS, in 1935, the Territorial Legislature established  
6 the Hawaii Housing Authority to provide safe and sanitary  
7 housing for low-income residents of Hawaii; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, in 1953, construction of the Mayor Wright Homes  
10 Public Housing Project was completed, making hundreds of units  
11 available for low-income families and individuals; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 1970, expanded the  
14 duties of the Hawaii Housing Authority to address the critical  
15 shortage of housing for lower- and middle-income residents; and  
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17 WHEREAS, in 1987, the Governor's Office created the State  
18 Homeless Task Group to advise the Governor and ensure  
19 coordination across homeless services; and  
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21 WHEREAS, in 2005, the United States Department of Housing  
22 and Urban Development awarded almost \$6,000,000 in grants-in-aid  
23 for Hawaii's homeless, which were distributed to several  
24 agencies and programs, including homeless shelters and drug  
25 treatment facilities; and  
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27 WHEREAS, currently, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
28 administers more than 6,000 federal and state low-income public  
29 housing units and provides thousands of rental assistance  
30 vouchers; and



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1 WHEREAS, over 60 nonprofit shelters and programs provide  
2 services to over 14,000 unique homeless individuals each year;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, hundreds of families at risk of becoming homeless  
6 receive financial assistance or housing-related support services  
7 to keep them housed; and  
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9 WHEREAS, despite numerous government efforts, expenditures  
10 of millions of tax dollars, and countless hours of work by  
11 government and private sector employees, homelessness in Hawaii  
12 continues to rise; and  
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14 WHEREAS, in 2011, approximately 6,200 individuals were  
15 homeless on any particular day, which increased to 7,600  
16 individuals in 2015; and  
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18 WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2013-2014, 14,282 homeless  
19 individuals received services through shelter and outreach  
20 programs compared to 11,070 individuals during fiscal year 2006-  
21 2007; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, due to these increases, Hawaii now has more  
24 homeless individuals, per capita, than any other state; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that homelessness is a  
27 complex issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated  
28 efforts at all levels; now, therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2016, that the Departments of Human Services,  
33 Taxation, Health, and Labor and Industrial Relations are  
34 requested to conduct various initiatives to address  
35 homelessness; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
38 Services is requested to consider whether a homelessness fund  
39 should be created to collect moneys for homeless facilities or  
40 any other program for the homeless authorized under part XVII of  
41 chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Taxation is  
2 requested to consider whether the conveyance tax should be  
3 increased to assist with human services, and if so, what amounts  
4 should be allocated for homeless facilities and programs  
5 administered by the Department of Human Services; and  
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties of Honolulu,  
8 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai are each requested to establish a three  
9 year community shelter commission, to be composed of the  
10 following representatives:

- 11 (1) The State, to be selected by the Governor;
- 12 (2) The United States, to be invited by the Governor;
- 13 (3) The county, to be selected by the mayor of the  
14 respective county;
- 15 (4) The clergy, to be invited by the Governor;
- 16 (5) The real estate commission;
- 17 (6) Social services, to be invited by the President of the  
18 Senate; and
- 19 (7) Businesses, to be invited by the Speaker of the House  
20 of Representatives; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each community shelter  
30 commission shall have the exclusive authority to select public  
31 property within its respective county to be used for providing  
32 homeless facilities, shelters, and programs authorized under  
33 part XVII of chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and shall not  
34 be subject to amendment by the Legislature or county council for  
35 five years immediately succeeding the decision; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
38 requested to establish a Civil Rights Board, to consist of the  
39 following nine members, who shall have a background in  
40 homelessness, mental health treatment, substance abuse  
41 treatment, human services, or criminal justice:



1 (1) Three to be appointed by the Governor;

2  
3 (2) Three to be appointed by the Governor from a list of  
4 not fewer than five nominees submitted to the Governor  
5 by the Senate President; and  
6

7 (3) Three to be appointed by the Governor from a list of  
8 not fewer than five nominees submitted to the Governor  
9 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Rights Board may  
12 request a law enforcement officer to initiate proceedings of an  
13 emergency examination and hospitalization pursuant to section  
14 334-59(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a law enforcement officer  
17 declines a request by the Civil Rights Board to initiate  
18 proceedings of an emergency examination and hospitalization, and  
19 the Civil Rights Board determines that the individual poses a  
20 danger to public health or safety, the Civil Rights Board may  
21 order a law enforcement officer to address any complaint by  
22 taking action that would help to ameliorate the situation or  
23 ensure that the individual no longer poses a danger to public  
24 health or safety, including relocating the individual or taking  
25 the individual into custody; and  
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Housing Finance and  
28 Development Corporation is requested to conduct a survey to  
29 identify and inventory state-owned and state-managed housing  
30 units statewide that are vacant and could be used as affordable  
31 rental housing under chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
32 including housing units that could be used as affordable rental  
33 housing if renovated or restored; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Housing Finance and  
36 Development Corporation shall report to the Governor and the  
37 Legislature, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
38 Regular Session of 2017, on the results of the survey conducted,  
39 including providing an inventory list that identifies each  
40 vacant unit by legal owner, street location, and tax map key  
41 number; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
2 Services is requested to conduct a homeless summit before  
3 December 1, 2016, to gather experts from around the world to  
4 share and develop strategies to address homelessness; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and  
7 Industrial Relations is requested to establish a statewide pilot  
8 Public Service Employment Program to provide job assistance for  
9 homeless individuals and to accord priority to individuals to be  
10 hired for the pilot Public Service Employment Program in the  
11 following order:  
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13 (1) Unemployed persons who have been unemployed for more  
14 than 15 weeks, including those who have exhausted  
15 their unemployment benefits;  
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17 (2) All other unemployed persons who are unemployment  
18 insurance claimants, including those who have  
19 exhausted their unemployment benefits;  
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21 (3) All other unemployed persons, whether or not they are  
22 unemployment insurance claimants, who are certified by  
23 the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations as  
24 recipients of state public assistance under chapter  
25 346; and  
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27 (4) All other unemployed persons, whether or not they are  
28 unemployment insurance claimants; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals employed in public  
31 service jobs under the pilot Public Service Employment Program  
32 shall not be paid wages below the state minimum wage, shall not  
33 be considered state employees, and shall not be subject to the  
34 laws relating to state employment benefits, including those  
35 regarding hours of work, rates of compensation, leave,  
36 unemployment compensation, and state employee benefits; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Labor and  
39 Industrial Relations is requested to report annually to the  
40 Legislature on the progress of implementing the pilot Public  
41 Service Employment Program; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Labor and  
2 Industrial Relations is requested to provide subsidies for  
3 employers, whether or not operated for profit, who agree to  
4 participate in an employment program to train and permanently  
5 hire unemployed persons to defray extra costs of providing  
6 employment and a program of training and support services, and  
7 that may be used for on-the-job training and counseling, job  
8 orientation, job-related education, instruction in English as a  
9 second language, medical and dental services, transportation  
10 expenses, a portion of wages, and other costs related to the  
11 employment; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Labor and  
14 Industrial Relations is requested to consider and approve loans  
15 for private employers, whether or not operated for profit, who  
16 agree to participate in an employment program to train and  
17 permanently hire unemployed persons; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human  
21 Services, Director of Health, Director of Labor and Industrial  
22 Relations, Director of Taxation, and Chair of each County  
23 Council.  
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25  
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OFFERED BY: Samuel E. King

Ok  
Calvin K. King

MAR 11 2016

