

MAR 11 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

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



S.R. NO. 75

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
13

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
25

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 Senate of the Twenty-eighth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
32 that the Departments of Human Services, Taxation, Health, and
33 Labor and Industrial Relations are requested to conduct various
34 initiatives to address homelessness; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
37 Services is requested to consider whether a homelessness fund
38 should be created to collect moneys for homeless facilities or
39 any other program for the homeless authorized under part XVII of
40 chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



S.R. NO. 75

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:
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- 12 (1) The State, to be selected by the Governor;
- 13
- 14 (2) The United States, to be invited by the Governor;
- 15
- 16 (3) The county, to be selected by the mayor of the
17 respective county;
- 18
- 19 (4) The clergy, to be invited by the Governor;
- 20
- 21 (5) The real estate commission;
- 22
- 23 (6) Social services, to be invited by the President of the
24 Senate; and
- 25
- 26 (7) Businesses, to be invited by the Speaker of the House
27 of Representatives; and
28

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
36

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:



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(1) Three to be appointed by the Governor;

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

(3) Three to be appointed by the Governor from a list of not fewer than five nominees submitted to the Governor by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Rights Board may request a law enforcement officer to initiate proceedings of an emergency examination and hospitalization pursuant to section 334-59(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a law enforcement officer declines a request by the Civil Rights Board to initiate proceedings of an emergency examination and hospitalization, and the Civil Rights Board determines that the individual poses a danger to public health or safety, the Civil Rights Board may order a law enforcement officer to address any complaint by taking action that would help to ameliorate the situation or ensure that the individual no longer poses a danger to public health or safety, including relocating the individual or taking the individual into custody; and

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

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

- 12
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
26
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
12

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.
24
25
26

OFFERED BY: _____

M. H. M.

By Request

