

FEB 22 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT  
OF USING MEDICAID FUNDS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE  
TREATMENT FOR HOMELESSNESS.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of the State's  
2 most significant and challenging social problems; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Hawaii Statewide Homeless  
5 Point-In-Time conducted in January 2016, there are 7,921  
6 homeless individuals in the State, an overall increase of four  
7 percent from 2015; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, homeless persons face a myriad of issues,  
10 including general health issues, mental illness, substance  
11 abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of affordable  
12 housing; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, many people who experience homelessness have high  
15 health care needs and costs; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, for many of these individuals with complex health  
18 conditions, housing instability can be a significant barrier to  
19 regular health care access, which results in excessive use of  
20 expensive emergency department, inpatient treatment, and crisis  
21 services; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, by recognizing the importance of housing stability  
24 within the practice of health care for homeless individuals and  
25 exploring creative and innovative solutions to address homeless  
26 individuals' health care needs through housing stability from  
27 traditional and non-traditional resources, the State may be able  
28 to recover the costs that homeless individuals incur over their  
29 lifetime; now, therefore,  
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the



# S.C.R. NO. 56

1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
 2 requested to conduct a study to assess the impact of using  
 3 Medicaid funds to provide coverage for treatment for  
 4 homelessness, including the costs to provide coverage for the  
 5 chronically homeless population in the State; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the treatment for homelessness  
 8 include:

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- 10 (1) Behavioral health services, including mental health
- 11 and substance abuse services;
- 12
- 13 (2) Case management;
- 14
- 15 (3) Personal care and personal assistance services;
- 16
- 17 (4) Home and community-based services; and
- 18
- 19 (5) Housing services; and
- 20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
 22 submit findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 23 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 24 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

25  
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director  
 28 of Human Services.

29  
 30  
 31

OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*  
Michelle A. Tolani

~~Don Acord Agre~~  
*[Signature]*  
Will Eyo