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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS.

**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 2017 Hawaii  
4 statewide homeless point-in-time count conducted in January  
5 2017, there are 7,220 homeless individuals in the State, an  
6 overall decrease of nine per cent from 2016. 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 there were over twenty thousand hospital visits by homeless  
13 persons in the State. Medical visits by the homeless cost state  
14 hospitals \$214,000,000 in 2016, up drastically from \$70,500,000  
15 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is sometimes  
16 uncompensated; one hospital alone incurred \$10,500,000 in  
17 uncompensated costs in 2015.



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  the homeless population.

14       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15  revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
16  thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to  
17  purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the  
18  homeless population; provided that:

- 19       (1) The staff may include one primary care provider, one  
20           nurse, one pharmacist, and one psychiatrist and other  
21           staff as needed, including a social worker, outreach



1 worker, and students pursuing a degree in medicine or  
2 nursing; and

3 (2) The mobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the  
4 following services:

5 (A) Non-emergency medical services for chronic,  
6 acute, and episodic conditions;

7 (B) Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human  
8 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;

9 (C) Family planning;

10 (D) Child and family services;

11 (E) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;

12 (F) Mental health services;

13 (G) Dental care;

14 (H) Referral services;

15 (I) Shower and laundry services;

16 (J) Clean clothing;

17 (K) Health insurance enrollment;

18 (L) Pharmacy services;

19 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes  
20 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the  
21 practice of directly delivering health care and



1 related services to persons found on the streets,  
2 in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in  
3 abandoned buildings; and

4 (N) Other assistance services;

5 provided further that the department of human services may  
6 procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapter 103F,  
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Mobile Clinic; Homeless; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population. (HB2269 HD1)

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

