

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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HONOLULU

March 16, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SCR 130 / SR 90 – REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT FOR VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE STATE SEPARATE REGIONAL PLANS THAT COORDINATE SHELTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION AND CONCERNS OF IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2020, 3:10 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions are to request the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.

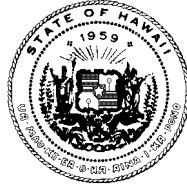
The actions requested by the resolutions appear to duplicate responsibilities already required by statute. Section 346-381(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), which is chaired by the Coordinator, to "formulate, and advise the governor on the implementation of, a unified ten-year statewide plan to address homelessness in all Hawaii counties." The ten-year statewide plan and a unified framework to address homelessness have been adopted by the HICH and are available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich/>. The Coordinator presents and reviews quarterly dashboards on progress towards the plan at the regular meetings of the HICH.

The Coordinator respectfully disagrees with the statement “the State is failing to collaborate with various local nonprofit organizations throughout the state to address homelessness.” The Coordinator actively works to align State efforts with the work of the county homeless coordinators in Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii, as well as with the local Continua of Care (CoCs) for Oahu and the neighbor islands. With input from the counties and the CoCs, the Coordinator established regular monthly meetings with federal, state, and county agencies that fund homeless services, as well as monthly meetings with technical assistance providers and consulting groups working on homeless issues in Hawaii. The discussions with the counties, funders, and CoCs informed the use of Ohana Zone funds by the State, and resulted in the development of new programs such as the Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons (HONU) program that provides mobile services to address the needs of rural areas on Oahu that do not have existing emergency shelter capacity.

The Coordinator also acknowledges the efforts of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH) to support the efforts of nonprofit organizations addressing homelessness. In particular, DHS and the State Procurement Office recently developed and implemented training for nonprofit organizations on government procurement and other procedures related to funding for homeless services. DOH also worked in partnership with nonprofit providers to implement the Hawaii Coordinated Access Resource Entry System (CARES) in October 2019 to streamline access to substance abuse treatment services. DHS and DOH, together with the Coordinator and the CoCs, are currently working with the National Council for Behavioral Health to develop systems level approaches to better serve homeless individuals with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders.

The collaborative efforts between the State and counties contributed to an overall statewide decline in the Point in Time count of homeless individuals by 19.1% (1,509 individuals) between 2016 and 2019, including a 39% decrease (1,473 individuals) in homeless families. During the same period, the number of individuals exiting from homeless programs to permanent housing increased by 73% - an increase from an average of 357 per month to an average of 616 per month.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 15, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 130/SR 90 – REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT FOR VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE STATE SEPARATE REGIONAL PLANS THAT COORDINATE SHELTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION AND CONCERNS OF IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.**

Hearing: March 16, 2020, 3:10 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers comments.

PURPOSE: These resolutions require the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.

DHS disagrees with the statement that "the State is failing to collaborate with various local nonprofit organizations throughout the State to address homelessness." DHS is procuring services with community organizations and general fund appropriations as provided and instructed by the Legislature. Community providers need support and assistance to improve their organizational capacity to meet State procurement and performance measures. Through Act 162 (2019), the Legislature did provide a one-time appropriation to increase the understanding of procurement processes; the State Procurement Office (SPO) and DHS

Homeless Programs Office (HPO) developed and delivered training for community providers interested in providing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. However, the Legislature did not appropriate funds for community providers to improve their organizational capacity.

These resolutions duplicate current efforts. The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is the chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). HICH is the forum for strategy development in context of a statewide strategy to end homelessness. All counties and the continua of care are represented at the HICH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.

CYNTHIA K.L. REZENTES

To: The Honorable Senator Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cynthia K.L. Rezentes, Chair Kealahou West Oahu

SUBJECT: SCR130/SR90 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT FOR VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE STATE SEPARATE REGIONAL PLANS THAT COORDINATE SHELTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION AND CONCERNS OF IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

Date of Hearing:: March 16, 2020
Time: 3:10 P.M.
Location: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

I sit as the chair for the non-profit Kealahou West Oahu, and am a member of various community organizations within the Wai`anae community.

I would urge caution to attempt to have the Governor's Office of Homelessness coordinator utilize his time to develop neighborhood/regional plans for communities throughout the State regarding homeless in localized communities.

Not all communities have shelters with which homeless may be offered shelter but may be asked/requested/required to utilize shelters in other regions/districts to meet the intent of the directive via these resolutions causing additional strain on the system or even having people not wishing to leave their district to have to move elsewhere for services causing more complex planning across regions/districts.

With respect to being able to work closely and effectively with the State Homeless Coordinator, I have never had occasion to not be able to consult with him to attempt to work on providing proper services for the homeless that our organization interfaces with. He is available whether during the "standard" 9-5 and beyond when I have had occasion to contact him on specific issues.

He has been open and available to our shelter and outreach organizations and keeps our teams involved in activities scheduled along the Coast. It is not unusual for him to be on site to actually assist in various actions requiring SPOs or SNOs.

My recommendation would be to provide him with the required help needed to more broadly cover the programs throughout the State that he interfaces with and to provide the resources necessary to accommodate more of the homeless into housing, i.e. shelter, housing first, permanent supportive housing, etc.

It is through us all working together to get the homeless housed and surround them with the support they need to move them forward with society.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

COMMENTS REGARDING SCR 130

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
Hearing: Monday, 3/16/20; 3:10 pm; Room 016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments regarding SR 90**, which would require the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.


We appreciate the legislature's recognition of the uniqueness of our counties, and the need to tailor solutions to the individual neighborhoods in which they'll be implemented, and to collaborate with the nonprofits who will implement them. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to homelessness, and we are grateful that our representatives agree. In fact, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Mr. Scott Morishige, has carried out this idea in every interaction I have had with him. Mr. Morishige's approach has both reflective and reflexive--taking note of the differences between Oahu and the neighbor islands, and working to ensure that the state's actions, positions, and policies support our population and our work here on Hawai'i Island.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Morishige is *present*. He regularly checks in to make sure we are receiving the support we need from his office, and frequently visits sites across the neighbor islands. He is exceptionally accessible and responsive, and has reliably assisted us with difficult and urgent requests.

As the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is already cooperating with nonprofit organizations on the neighbor islands, we would like to request clarification on what outcomes are expected from this bill since local plans are developed locally by the communities on each island. Hawai'i Island's local coalition of stakeholders, Community Alliance Partners, has a data driven plan with a 3-year strategic direction that aligns with the State Plan.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of our comments **regarding SR 90**.

Sincerely,


Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Brandee Menino

DAVID NAKAMA

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Rudeman, Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Nakama, County of Maui Homeless Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: SCR 130 / SR 90 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Date of Hearing: March 16, 2020
Time: 3:10 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

I have had the privilege of being the Homeless Program Coordinator for the County of Maui and serving on the board for Bridging the Gap Continuum of Care for the past three (3) years. I have a couple of concerns regarding this bill. It states, *“...the State is failing to collaborate with various local nonprofit organizations throughout the State to address the homelessness issue.”* With all due respect, I would disagree with this statement as the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness, Scott Morishige, has been in regular, constant contact with my office for a multitude of matters relating to projects, funding, concerns, and updates. Mr. Morishige has been extremely accessible and responsive to all of our inquiries relating to homelessness from Maui County. The level of collaboration from Mr. Morishige’s office has been, quite frankly, beyond my expectations, working closely together on matters such as the Ohana Zones Project and on-going cleanup efforts on government lands, to name a few.

Another concern is that this bill seems vague and indistinct in the ask of the Governor’s coordinator on homelessness. As Mr. Morishige already is the chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at which all of the County’s and Continua of Care are represented, this bill may be duplicating efforts already in place. Also, this bill has the potential of causing unintended confusion with various stakeholders at the local level.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in this matter.

Respectfully,

David Nakama