

JAN 18 2019

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is  
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By amending section 3 to read:

4 "SECTION 3. (a) There is established the ohana zones  
5 pilot program to provide temporary housing and services to  
6 homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to  
7 the housing first program.

8 (b) The governor shall designate executive branch agencies  
9 to develop and implement the ohana zones pilot program,  
10 including an agency with specific expertise in construction  
11 development and an agency with specific expertise in  
12 administering homeless services. The governor, through the  
13 governor's designated agencies, shall determine the number and  
14 locations of the ohana zones, which shall be situated on public  
15 lands[+] in accordance with subsection (c) or on private lands  
16 through a partnership between the State and the owner of the  
17 land; provided that the designated agencies shall identify at



1 least three sites on Oahu and one site on each of the islands of  
2 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

3 (c) The agencies designated pursuant to subsection (b) may  
4 coordinate with public or private entities, as appropriate, to  
5 develop and implement the ohana zones pilot program; provided  
6 that if any public land under the jurisdiction of a state or  
7 county agency is determined to be suitable for use as an ohana  
8 zone, the designated agencies shall:

9 (1) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
10 controls the land to transfer the land designated for  
11 use as an ohana zone to an agency whose mission is  
12 more suited to the management of ohana zones; and

13 (2) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
14 controls the land and its construction agency to  
15 ensure that an ohana zone's infrastructure needs are  
16 met and minimize adverse impacts to the environment,  
17 including to nearshore resources such as corals, reef  
18 fish, and seabirds.

19 (d) The ohana zones pilot program may provide the  
20 following facilities and services at each ohana zone site:

21 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:



- 1 (A) May be private or communal;
- 2 (B) Have access to toilets, showers, and other
- 3 hygiene facilities; and
- 4 (C) Have access to an area for food storage and meal
- 5 preparation;
- 6 (2) Medical and social support services; and
- 7 (3) Transportation to appointments related to medical care
- 8 or supportive services that are not available onsite."

9 2. By amending section 7 to read:

10 "SECTION 7. (a) There is established within the  
11 department of human services a pilot program to be known as the  
12 emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program. The  
13 department of human services, in consultation with the Hawaii  
14 interagency council on homelessness and any other appropriate  
15 agency, shall serve as the administrator of the pilot program.

16 (b) The pilot program shall consist of multidisciplinary  
17 teams composed of but not limited to physicians, advanced  
18 practice registered nurses, social workers, and patient  
19 navigators who are employed by a participating hospital in the  
20 participating hospital's emergency department. The  
21 multidisciplinary team shall:



- 1           (1) Identify patients who are experiencing homelessness or  
2           patients at risk of experiencing homelessness and have  
3           high utilization of emergency department services;
- 4           (2) Assess the patient's current circumstances; and
- 5           (3) Coordinate and refer these patients to appropriate and  
6           available wrap-around supports and community resources  
7           along the entire continuum of care with a goal of  
8           reducing costs associated with chronic use of hospital  
9           emergency departments.
- 10          (c) The department of human services shall work with the  
11         participating hospital under the emergency department  
12         homelessness assessment pilot program to collect and analyze  
13         data to be included in a report that contains a summary and  
14         explanation of the data regarding the efficacy of emergency  
15         department intervention by the multidisciplinary team in  
16         mitigating the number of unnecessary emergency department visits  
17         by patients experiencing homelessness or patients at risk of  
18         experiencing homelessness. The report shall contain findings  
19         and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for  
20         continuation, modification, or termination of the pilot program.  
21         The department of human services shall submit the report to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the regular session of [~~2019-~~] 2020.

3 (d) The department of human services shall be exempt from  
4 chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in implementing this  
5 part.

6 (e) The emergency department homelessness assessment pilot  
7 program shall cease to exist on June 30, [~~2019-~~] 2020."

8 3. By amending section 9 to read:

9 "SECTION 9. (a) There is established within the  
10 department of human services a pilot program to be known as the  
11 medical respite pilot program. The department of human  
12 services, in consultation with the Hawaii interagency council on  
13 homelessness and any appropriate agency, shall serve as the  
14 administrator of the pilot program.

15 (b) A participating community human services provider, in  
16 partnership with a hospital participating in the pilot program,  
17 shall provide emergency housing for eligible individuals  
18 experiencing homelessness who are discharged from the  
19 participating hospital and provide, at minimum, meals, case  
20 management, and medical, nursing, and psychiatric care. The  
21 medical respite facilities shall comply with the department of



1 health's standards of accessibility, sanitation, and other  
2 requirements, as determined by the department of health for  
3 facilities of similar use.

4 (c) The department of human services shall submit a report  
5 to the legislature of its findings and recommendations,  
6 including any proposed legislation, regarding the pilot program  
7 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
8 session of [~~2019-~~] 2020.

9 (d) The department of human services shall be exempt from  
10 chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in implementing this  
11 part.

12 (e) The medical respite pilot program shall cease to exist  
13 on June 30, [~~2019-~~] 2020."

14 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 483

**Report Title:**

DHS; Ohana Zones Pilot Program; Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program; Medical Respite Pilot Program; Homelessness; Human Services; Housing; Shelters

**Description:**

Authorizes the use of private lands for the ohana zones pilot program. Extends sunset dates of the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite pilot programs of the Department of Human Services to 6/30/2020. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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