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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

**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 2018 Hawaii  
4 statewide homeless point-in-time count conducted in January  
5 2018, there are 6,530 homeless individuals in the State, an  
6 overall decrease of 9.6 per cent from 2017. 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 homeless persons in the State made more than twenty thousand  
13 hospital visits. In 2016, state hospitals billed \$214,000 in  
14 charges for caring for the homeless, up drastically from  
15 \$70,500,000 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is  
16 sometimes uncompensated; one hospital alone estimates it incurs  
17 more than \$10,000,000 in uncompensated costs annually.



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 homeless people; provided that one of the mobile clinics be  
14 allocated to the county of Hawaii.

15           SECTION 2. (a) There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and  
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2020-2021 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile  
20 clinics to serve homeless individuals; provided that:



- 1 (1) One mobile clinic shall be allocated to the county of  
2 Hawaii;
- 3 (2) No funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall  
4 be made available unless the department of human  
5 services obtains matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar  
6 basis to the amount appropriated by the State;
- 7 (3) The staff may include one primary care provider, one  
8 nurse, one pharmacist, one psychiatrist, and other  
9 staff as needed, including a social worker, an  
10 outreach worker, and students pursuing a degree in  
11 medicine or nursing; and
- 12 (4) The mobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the  
13 following services:
- 14 (A) Non-emergency medical services for chronic,  
15 acute, and episodic conditions;
- 16 (B) Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human  
17 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
- 18 (C) Family planning;
- 19 (D) Child and family services;
- 20 (E) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- 21 (F) Mental health services;



- 1 (G) Dental care;
- 2 (H) Referral services;
- 3 (I) Shower and laundry services;
- 4 (J) Clean clothing;
- 5 (K) Health insurance enrollment;
- 6 (L) Pharmacy services;
- 7 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes
- 8 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the
- 9 practice of directly delivering health care and
- 10 related services to persons found on the streets,
- 11 in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in
- 12 abandoned buildings; and
- 13 (N) Other assistance services;

14 provided further that the department of human services may  
15 procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapters 103D and  
16 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 (b) The sums appropriated shall be expended by the  
18 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons; provided that one of the mobile clinics shall be allocated to the county of Hawaii. Requires matching funds. (SD1)

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

