

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LGBTQ+-FOCUSED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH ACROSS THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be a significant issue
2 throughout the State and an estimated fifteen thousand
3 individuals are reported to be homeless; and
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5 WHEREAS, in the wake of the coronavirus disease 2019
6 pandemic, the number of homeless individuals is expected to
7 increase across the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, homelessness disproportionately impacts LGBTQ+
10 youth throughout the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are more than twice as likely to
13 experience homelessness than other children and it is estimated
14 that forty percent of homeless youth are LGBTQ+, most often due
15 to familial rejection; and
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17 WHEREAS, without targeted support services, LGBTQ+ youth
18 face social stigma and discrimination, which contributes to the
19 physical and mental strains and challenges with which they
20 struggle; and
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22 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are often at a heightened risk of
23 violence, abuse, and exploitation compared to their heterosexual
24 peers; and
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26 WHEREAS, homelessness is a crisis that necessitates
27 increased collaboration and planning between the State,
28 counties, neighborhood boards, and nonprofit organizations and
29 those plans should address the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth;
30 and
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S.R. NO. 178

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness was
 2 created to assure that a broad interagency, interdisciplinary,
 3 and community-based approach is brought to bear to reduce and
 4 end homelessness in Hawaii; and

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 6 WHEREAS, despite the disproportionate impact of
 7 homelessness on LGBTQ+ youth, the Hawaii Interagency Council on
 8 Homelessness fails to include a representative from a LGBTQ+
 9 non-profit organization in its membership and therefore cannot
 10 adequately address the specific needs of homeless LGBTQ+ youth;
 11 now, therefore,

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 13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 15 that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, as Chairperson
 16 of the Hawaii Interagency Council of Homelessness, is urged to
 17 include a representative from a LGBTQ+-focused nonprofit
 18 organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on
 19 Homelessness to assist in developing an approach to ending
 20 homelessness that addresses the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth
 21 across the State; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on
 24 Homelessness is requested to reach out to various organizations
 25 throughout the State that provide targeted outreach services
 26 that meet the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's Coordinator on
 30 Homelessness.

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OFFERED BY: 

