

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 29, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **HCR 155 / HR 155 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND
HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING
HOUSELESSNESS CRISIS AND DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR PROVIDING CARE
AND SERVICES FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS WHILE ENSURING COMMUNITY
SAFETY.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of these resolutions and respectfully offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions are to urge the City and County of Honolulu and Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to address the ongoing houselessness crisis and develop solutions for providing care and services for these individuals while ensuring community safety.

The Coordinator partners closely with both the City and County of Honolulu and HPD to address the issue of homelessness throughout the island of Oahu. Specifically, as part of the Ohana Zones pilot program, the Coordinator contracts with the City to administer the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered \(HONU\) program](#). In addition, the Coordinator contracts with the City to operate a permanent supportive housing program, which includes site-based facilities for [seniors](#) and [survivors of domestic violence](#).

In addition, the Coordinator actively partners with HPD and other City agencies to share information about training and other resources for homeless service providers. For example, HPD and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Hawaii Chapter participated in a [November](#)

[2021 webinar](#) hosted by the Coordinator's office to share information on HPD's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) initiative. In addition, the City administration shared information about its Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE) program during the Coordinator's monthly webinars in [September 2021](#), and more recently in [February 2022](#). The Coordinator and staff also actively partner with HPD Community Policing Teams to conduct presentations for communities, such as in [Downtown-Nuuanu](#) and [Waikiki](#), relating to homelessness services and strategies.

The Coordinator will continue to partner closely with HPD and other departments within the City and County of Honolulu to address the complex challenge of homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.