
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING INCREASED INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO ASSIST AND DIVERT MORE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the assistance provided by law enforcement
2 officers during interactions with individuals experiencing
3 homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use,
4 or mental health issues is greatly enhanced when the officers
5 are part of a coordinated and collaborative approach involving
6 social service providers having specialized training and
7 experience in addressing the needs of these individuals; and
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9 WHEREAS, this coordinated approach was pioneered in King
10 County, Washington, in 2011 as a voluntary diversion program for
11 individuals who were repeatedly being arrested for low-level
12 criminal activity, and included collaboration among the Seattle
13 Police Department, King County Sheriff's Office, King County
14 Prosecutor, Seattle City Attorney, Washington State Department
15 of Corrections, and treatment providers and nonprofit
16 organizations; and
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18 WHEREAS, the King County program, also known as Seattle's
19 LEAD or Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, diverted
20 individuals engaged in low-level drug crimes, prostitution, and
21 crimes associated with poverty away from the criminal justice
22 system--thus bypassing prosecution and jail time--and connected
23 them with intensive case managers to provide crisis response,
24 immediate psychosocial assessment, and long-term wraparound
25 services, including substance use disorder treatment and stable
26 housing; and
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28 WHEREAS, this strategy of working with law enforcement
29 officers to intercept and channel individuals into community-
30 based interventions effectively disrupted the cycling of these
31 individuals through the criminal justice system, using a harm



1 reduction-based model of care that aimed to help program
2 participants meet their basic needs and achieve stability in the
3 community; and
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5 WHEREAS, multiple evaluations of Seattle's LEAD program
6 have identified reductions in recidivism and in use of the
7 criminal justice system, along with meaningful improvements in
8 housing and employment outcomes for program participants; and
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10 WHEREAS, the LEAD model produced such a positive response
11 that in 2015, the White House hosted a national convening of
12 delegates from nearly thirty United States jurisdictions that
13 included district attorneys, police chiefs, city council
14 members, community police reform advocates, state legislators,
15 and human services providers; and
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17 WHEREAS, the LEAD model is now identified as a promising
18 practice by the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of
19 Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice is
20 providing technical assistance grants for other jurisdictions
21 interested in replicating the LEAD program; and
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23 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, pilot efforts to adopt the LEAD model
24 were made by county police departments and in 2017, the
25 Legislature funded Honolulu's LEAD program through the Alcohol
26 and Drug Abuse Division of the Department of Health, in
27 collaboration with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, a two-year program evaluation report published in
31 2020 found that program clients reported decreased use of
32 emergency shelters; decreased hospital admissions; fewer
33 emergency room visits; decreased methamphetamine use; greater
34 housing stability; and an overall improvement in quality of
35 life, due to greater social support, less stress, and improved
36 mental health; and
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38 WHEREAS, given the demonstrated success of LEAD-style
39 programs nationally, on Oahu, and in neighbor island counties,
40 further efforts should be made to increase interagency
41 coordination and collaboration between county law enforcement
42 agencies, social service providers, and other stakeholders to



1 assist and divert more individuals from the criminal justice
2 system; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2023, that county police departments are requested to
7 develop and provide updated and expanded training, in
8 collaboration and consultation with the Department of Health and
9 University of Hawaii, to officers having frequent contact with
10 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues
11 including substance use, or mental health issues; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
14 requested to provide trained personnel to accompany county
15 police officers to calls involving individuals experiencing
16 homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use,
17 or mental health issues, for the purpose of providing assistance
18 in addressing the particular needs of these individuals,
19 including referrals to any necessary support and treatment
20 services; and the Department of Health is also requested to
21 collaborate and consult with county police departments to
22 develop updated and expanded training curriculum for county
23 police officers; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
26 requested to provide technical assistance to county police
27 departments and the Department of Health, such as assistance
28 with the following suggested endeavors:

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30 (1) Training and professional development opportunities,
31 including continuing education courses, for behavioral
32 health and mental health personnel employed or
33 contracted by the Department of Health;
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35 (2) The development of a school-to-work pipeline to
36 rapidly respond to the increased demand for behavioral
37 health, mental health, and other social service
38 providers, including the establishment of paid student
39 externships wherein students enrolled in a health
40 science- or social science-related program of the
41 University of Hawaii system may gain practical work
42 experience in assisting individuals experiencing



1 homelessness, behavioral health issues including
2 substance use, or mental health issues, under the
3 supervision of qualified Department of Health
4 personnel; and
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6 (3) An assessment and evaluation of the current degree of
7 coordination and collaboration between county law
8 enforcement agencies, the Department of Health and any
9 of its contracted service providers, and any other
10 relevant stakeholders involved in assisting
11 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral
12 health issues including substance use, or mental
13 health issues; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's Coordinator on
17 Homelessness; Director of Health; President of the University of
18 Hawaii; Chiefs of Police of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai,
19 and of the City and County of Honolulu; and Executive Director
20 of Partners in Care.
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OFFERED BY:



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