S.R. NO. 96

MAR 1 0 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE REGULAR CARE AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CENTRAL OAHU, NORTH SHORE, LEEWARD, AND WINDWARD REGIONS OF OAHU ON A REGULAR ROTATING SCHEDULE.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness is a complex and multi-faceted issue 2 that requires planning, coordination, and implementation across state, county, business, local, and community lines; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program in October 2021 6 7 to provide services to Oahu's unsheltered population, responding 8 to crisis calls that are non-violent and do not require emergent 9 medical assistance; and 10 11 WHEREAS, the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program's response team includes emergency medical technicians 12 and community health workers trained in relationship building, 13 14 extending compassion, problem-solving, and crisis prevention 15 intervention; and 16 17 WHEREAS, once the identified crisis is addressed, the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program also deploys a 18 participant-centered follow-up routine that includes continual 19 20 assessment of participants' needs and linkage to community 21 resources when necessary; and 22 23 WHEREAS, the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement 24 Program has initially focused on Honolulu's urban core, stretching from Chinatown to Waikiki, but has slowly expanded 25 26 and responded to calls in other parts of Oahu; and 27 28 WHEREAS, although local government agencies, non-profit service providers, and other private sector organizations have 29

diligently and successfully assisted homeless individuals, the

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1 number of individuals and families on Oahu has not significantly 2 decreased; and

WHEREAS, because homelessness has been a rising concern among residents islandwide, expanding the reach of the Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program throughout Oahu may prove effective in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and addressing residents' concerns about Oahu's homeless population; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the City and County of Honolulu's Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program is urged to provide regular care and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in the Central Oahu, North Shore, Leeward, and Windward regions of Oahu on a regular rotating schedule; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of 21 Honolulu and Director of the Honolulu Emergency Services 22 Department. 23

OFFERED BY:

Mint