HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO ESTABLISH A RELOCATION PROJECT TO ASSIST HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS, WITH THE GOALS OF REDUCING HOMELESSNESS, CRIME, RECIDIVISM, AND TAXPAYERS' COSTS.

WHEREAS, homelessness is one of the most pressing problems in the State; and

WHEREAS, according to the Partners in Care 2023 Point in Time Count, there are at least four thousand twenty-eight people experiencing homelessness on Oahu; and

WHEREAS, while Hawaii has one of the highest homelessness rates in the nation, through improved coordination and investment in programs such as the Kauhale Initiative, Ohana Zones, Return to Home, and Housing First, Hawaii is turning the tide on the homeless crisis; and

WHEREAS, chronic homelessness is distinct from other forms of homelessness and is defined by an individual being continuously homeless for a year or more or having had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, and the unaddressed problem of chronic homelessness is a particularly costly problem for the State's health care and emergency service systems; and

WHEREAS, across the State, placing homeless individuals into shelters, transitional housing, Kauhale, designated Ohana Zones, and supportive housing has resulted in significant cost savings for the health care system, emergency services systems, corrections, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Kauhale and Ohana Zones are approaches to homelessness that integrate permanent and affordable housing

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with best practice community-based supportive services to allow individuals with serious long-term disabilities to maintain stable housing in the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Governor and Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness are requested to establish a relocation project to assist homeless individuals, with the goals of reducing homelessness, crime, recidivism, and taxpayers' cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the relocation project is requested to:

(1) Assist homeless individuals into shelters, supportive housing, Kauhale, or designated Ohana Zones; and

(2) Ensure that homeless individuals receive triage services by monitoring the success rate of placement into shelters and accessibility of case management services and care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness are requested to submit a report on the status of the relocation project, including findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness.

OFFERED BY:

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