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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A TWO-YEAR HOMELESSNESS SANCTUARY PILOT PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, homelessness is a significant problem across the  
2 State; and

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4           WHEREAS, on the island of Oahu in particular, there is a  
5 large population of unsheltered individuals, many of whom suffer  
6 from issues relating to mental health or drug use; and

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8           WHEREAS, many homeless individuals have been cited or  
9 arrested for being in public parks after hours, trespassing, or  
10 illegally camping on sidewalks and other public areas; and

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12           WHEREAS, this trend demonstrates that homeless families and  
13 individuals need a stable location to live in safety and with  
14 dignity; and

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16           WHEREAS, one way to create this safe and stable location is  
17 to establish sanctuary locations where homeless individuals and  
18 families can safely live, sleep, and access services; and

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20           WHEREAS, providing consistent access to social services at  
21 these sanctuaries will put homeless individuals and families in  
22 a better position to escape the cycle of homelessness; and

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24           WHEREAS, providing access for mental health services and  
25 substance abuse treatment could encourage participation in those  
26 programs; and

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28           WHEREAS, in addition to services from public agencies,  
29 local nonprofit organizations, churches and other faith-based  
30 organizations, and businesses can also be service partners,  
31 ensuring broad-based, community-driven support; and  
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1           WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State and City and  
2 County of Honolulu take immediate action to establish  
3 sanctuaries through a two-year homelessness sanctuary pilot  
4 program to determine the feasibility of this approach; now,  
5 therefore,  
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7           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
9 of 2025, that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the  
10 City and County of Honolulu are requested to establish a two-  
11 year homelessness sanctuary pilot program to provide a safe  
12 location on public land for homeless individuals and families to  
13 reside and access services; and  
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15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, no later than November 1,  
16 2025, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to  
17 designate a specific location on state or county land for the  
18 homelessness sanctuary pilot program; and  
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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state or county agency  
21 having jurisdiction over the pilot program site is requested to  
22 work with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to ensure  
23 that the location has sufficient infrastructure to support the  
24 pilot program and minimize adverse impacts on the environment,  
25 including to nearshore resources such as corals, reef fish, and  
26 seabirds; and  
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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
29 Homelessness is requested to coordinate with the Department of  
30 Human Services, City and County of Honolulu, and other agencies,  
31 to:  
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- 33           (1) Open the location for habitation and provision of  
34 services no later than January 1, 2026;  
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- 36           (2) Provide the following facilities at the designated  
37 location:  
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- 39           (A) A central tent for shelter;
  - 40           (B) A parking area at which residents may park their  
41 vehicles and sleep in their vehicles, if the  
42 residents choose to do so;



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- (C) Restroom and shower facilities;
- (D) Lockers and storage space;
- (E) Laundry facilities; and
- (F) Solid waste collection and disposal;

- (3) Allow for residents to set up additional, individual tents as needed by the residents;
- (4) Partner with nonprofit organizations and other entities to provide at least one meal per day to each resident;
- (5) Allow residents to be accompanied by pet animals;
- (6) Establish volunteer and employment opportunities in which residents are paid at least the minimum wage; provided that, to the extent possible, volunteer and employment opportunities are requested to focus on clean-up activities, vegetation control, painting, and other tasks for which the state and county governments are experiencing a backlog; and
- (7) To the extent possible, establish a zero-tolerance policy for illegal drugs, violence, and obscenities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to survey residents to determine other facilities and services that residents need or desire, including:

- (1) Workshop areas for job training;
- (2) Education opportunities;
- (3) Gardening;



1 (4) Childcare to allow residents with children to seek and  
2 maintain employment;

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4 (5) Transportation for children to attend school; and  
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6 (6) Transportation for residents to access bus and rail  
7 services and more easily access their places of  
8 employment; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to available funds,  
11 the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the coordinator's  
12 partner agencies are requested to offer facilities and services  
13 identified by residents as high priority needs or desires; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
16 Homelessness is requested to contract with qualified churches,  
17 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities to  
18 establish and operate the homelessness sanctuary pilot program;  
19 and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, no later than twenty days  
22 prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2026, 2027,  
23 and 2028, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is  
24 requested to submit a report to the Legislature that includes:  
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26 (1) Progress the State and City and County of Honolulu  
27 have made in establishing the homelessness sanctuary  
28 pilot program;  
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30 (2) The number of homeless individuals and families served  
31 by the program;  
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33 (3) An evaluation of the homelessness sanctuary pilot  
34 program to determine whether the objectives of the  
35 program have been met or exceeded;  
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37 (4) An assessment of the impact of the homelessness  
38 sanctuary pilot program on the homelessness problem in  
39 Hawaii;  
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41 (5) A recommendation of whether the homelessness sanctuary  
42 pilot program should be made permanent, and if so, an



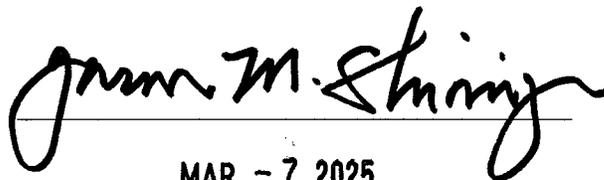
1 estimate of the amount of funding needed to sustain  
2 the program; and

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4 (6) Any other findings and recommendations, including any  
5 proposed legislation; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
8 Homelessness is requested to terminate the homelessness  
9 sanctuary pilot program on December 31, 2027; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Governor's  
13 Coordinator on Homelessness, Director of Human Services, Mayor  
14 of the City and County of Honolulu, and Chairperson of the  
15 Honolulu City Council.  
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OFFERED BY:



MAR - 7 2025

