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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 TO PROVIDE A SAFE LOCATION ON PUBLIC LAND FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO RESIDE AND ACCESS SERVICES.

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



1 organizations, and businesses can also be service partners,  
2 ensuring broad-based, community-driven support; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State and City and  
5 County of Honolulu take immediate action to establish  
6 sanctuaries through a two-year homelessness sanctuary pilot  
7 program to determine the feasibility of this approach; now,  
8 therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2025, that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the  
13 City and County of Honolulu are requested to establish a two-  
14 year homelessness sanctuary pilot program to provide a safe  
15 location on public land for homeless individuals and families to  
16 reside and access services; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, no later than November 1,  
19 2025, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to  
20 designate a specific location on state or county land for the  
21 homelessness sanctuary pilot program; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state or county agency  
24 having jurisdiction over the pilot program site is requested to  
25 work with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to ensure  
26 that the location has sufficient infrastructure to support the  
27 pilot program and minimize adverse impacts on the environment,  
28 including to nearshore resources such as corals, reef fish, and  
29 seabirds; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
32 Homelessness is requested to coordinate with the Department of  
33 Human Services, City and County of Honolulu, and other agencies,  
34 to:

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36 (1) Open the location for habitation and provision of  
37 services no later than January 1, 2026;  
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39 (2) Provide the following facilities at the designated  
40 location:  
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42 (A) A central tent for shelter;



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(B) A parking area at which residents may park their vehicles and sleep in their vehicles, if the residents choose to do so;

(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;



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- (3) Gardening;
- (4) Child care to allow residents with children to seek and maintain employment;
- (5) Transportation for children to attend school; and
- (6) Transportation for residents to access bus and rail services and more easily access their places of employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to available funds, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Coordinator's partner agencies are requested to offer facilities and services identified by residents as high priority needs or desires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to contract with qualified churches, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities to establish and operate the homelessness sanctuary pilot program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2026, 2027, and 2028, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to submit a report to the Legislature that includes:

- (1) Progress that the State and City and County of Honolulu have made in establishing the homelessness sanctuary pilot program;
- (2) The number of homeless individuals and families served by the pilot program;
- (3) An evaluation of the homelessness sanctuary pilot program to determine whether the objectives of the program have been met or exceeded;
- (4) An assessment of the impact of the homelessness sanctuary pilot program on the homelessness problem in Hawaii;



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(5) A recommendation of whether the homelessness sanctuary pilot program should be made permanent and, if so, an estimate of the amount of funding needed to sustain the pilot program; and

(6) Any other findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is requested to terminate the homelessness sanctuary pilot program on December 31, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Director of Human Services, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

