

FEB 12 2010

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH HOMELESS  
SAFE ZONES.

1           WHEREAS, addressing the needs of those living without  
2 permanent housing has been an extremely difficult situation to  
3 resolve; and  
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5           WHEREAS, despite the efforts of many to tackle the issue of  
6 homelessness, the problem continues to increase and communities,  
7 concerned about the health and safety of their residents, have  
8 demanded that the homeless be removed from areas in their  
9 communities where they congregate; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the homeless have been periodically removed from  
12 these areas to allow the public access to and use of these  
13 public areas and to reduce the perceived threat of criminal  
14 activity in these areas; and  
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16           WHEREAS, removal from one location does not address the  
17 underlying reasons for homelessness, whether they may be  
18 societal or personal, and may worsen the plight of the homeless  
19 by causing the loss or destruction of essential personal  
20 property; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Legislature is striving to address long-term  
23 solutions to homelessness, including repairing or building  
24 hundreds of public housing units, housing subsidies and  
25 services, employment and job training programs, ways of  
26 combating substance abuse, and food distribution programs; and  
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28           WHEREAS, while long-term solutions are vital, they do not  
29 respond to the immediate problems faced by homeless people who  
30 are constantly under the threat of removal from their current  
31 location; and



1           WHEREAS, one concept that would offer an immediate solution  
2 is the establishment of homeless safe zones that would provide a  
3 designated area for the homeless to stay at night in a  
4 reasonably safe and supervised setting; and  
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6           WHEREAS, there are private organizations that are ready and  
7 willing to provide this type of service to the homeless - some  
8 that are even willing to provide this service on their own  
9 property; and  
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11           WHEREAS, under Section 356D-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
12 (HRS), it is the responsibility of the Hawaii Public Housing  
13 Authority (HPHA) to:  
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- 15           (1) Administer and operate homeless facilities and any  
16           other program for the homeless authorized by part VII  
17           of Chapter 356D, HRS, relating to homeless assistance;  
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- 19           (2) Establish programs for the homeless; and  
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- 21           (3) Take any other actions necessary to effectuate the  
22           purposes of part VII of Chapter 356D, HRS, relating to  
23           homeless assistance;  
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25           and  
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27           WHEREAS, HPHA is authorized under Section 356D-125, HRS, to  
28 contract with provider agencies to administer homeless  
29 facilities; now, therefore,  
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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
33 that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is urged to contract  
34 with provider agencies to establish homeless safe zones; and  
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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that homeless safe zones established  
37 by the provider agency should, at a minimum, provide basic  
38 sanitary facilities and a place for the homeless to sleep, but  
39 may or may not offer bedding or the protection of a security  
40 guard; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that provider agencies may either  
2 provide the services on their own property, use grant or other  
3 funds to rent the property, or lease or otherwise contract with  
4 the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to use  
5 available public lands; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR and other state agencies  
8 provide assistance to HPHA and any provider agencies contracting  
9 with HPHA, pursuant to Section 356D-124, HRS, in identifying,  
10 contracting, and conveying land and improvements available for  
11 use by provider agencies as homeless safe zones; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Hawaii Public  
15 Housing Authority and the chairperson of the Board of Land and  
16 Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY: *Shianne Chun Okland*

