
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII TELEVISION, RADIO AND PRINT MEDIA OUTLETS TO
ADDRESS THE "NOT IN MY BACK YARD" (NIMBY) ATTITUDE IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness is one of the State's most pressing
2 problems; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are currently over 7,000 homeless
5 individuals in the islands; and

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7 WHEREAS, the cost to Hawaii for homelessness is quite high,
8 particularly for the chronically homeless and mentally ill.
9 Because they have no regular place to stay, people who are
10 homeless use a variety of public systems in an inefficient and
11 costly manner. Preventing a homeless episode or ensuring a
12 speedy transition into stable permanent housing can result in
13 more positive outcomes and significant cost savings; and

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15 WHEREAS, 38% of all public costs for those who are
16 unsheltered are healthcare costs. A study of hospital admissions
17 of homeless people in Hawaii revealed that 1,751 adults were
18 responsible for 564 hospitalizations and \$4 million in admission
19 costs. Their rate of psychiatric hospitalization was over 100
20 times their non-homeless cohort. It is estimated that the excess
21 cost for treating these homeless individuals was \$3.5 million or
22 about \$2,000 per person; and

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24 WHEREAS, these exorbitant costs affect all Hawaii
25 taxpayers; and

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27 WHEREAS, until our economy improves, there will not be
28 adequate affordable housing; and substance abuse treatment
29 facilities are costly, thus we need housing for the chronically
30 homeless, homeless shelters, homeless "safe zones" and homeless
31 night-time parking lots; and



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2 WHEREAS, many times non-profit organizations and government
3 agencies have proposed effective solutions for homelessness,
4 such as mini-shelters, "safe zone" park camping, homeless
5 parking lots, etc. only to be thwarted by neighbors of the
6 proposed facilities; and
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8 WHEREAS, currently in Chinatown homeless people are
9 sleeping in shop doorways and, because there are no public
10 toilets, they are defecating on the sidewalk; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2010 non-profits and lawmakers secured \$10.6
12 million for a "housing first" project in Honolulu's Chinatown.
13 However, over 200 Chinatown residents rallied against, and
14 successfully stopped the project; and
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16 WHEREAS, the "housing first" project would actually have
17 made the neighborhood cleaner and more respectable; and
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19 WHEREAS, there is currently a deleterious societal value of
20 NIMBY (not in my backyard); and
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22 WHEREAS, oftentimes there are already homeless in a
23 neighborhood, and the programs will eliminate any neighborhood
24 problems, yet due to fear, neighbors resist effective programs;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, Hawaiian culture supports Ohana; and
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29 WHEREAS, it is a Hawaiian cultural value to accept all into
30 one's Ohana; and
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32 WHEREAS, it is a Hawaiian value to see one's family as
33 extended beyond the nuclear family; and
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35 WHEREAS, homelessness touches all of our lives, be it from
36 loss of public services due to decline in state revenues,
37 increased medical costs, or from our connection as a member of
38 the larger Hawaii Ohana; and
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1 WHEREAS, media, including television, radio and newspapers
2 are highly effective in changing social mores and outcomes; and
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4 WHEREAS, the media, through in-depth reporting, has brought
5 many social issues to the forefront for community education and
6 governmental action; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2011 URGING Hawaii media to run PSAs and articles encouraging
11 the people of Hawaii to recognize that the homeless are also
12 part of our Ohana; and that properly run facilities should be
13 allowed in all neighborhoods; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to Honorable Neil Abercrombie,
17 Governor; Mayors and Council Members of the four counties; Marc
18 Alexander, Governor's Homeless Coordinator,
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the following television stations,
22 requesting them to air anti-NIMBY PSAs: HAWAII NEWS NOW (KGMB
23 TV/KHNL KFIVE), KHET, KHON TV, KITV; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to editors of the following
27 newspapers, requesting them to air anti-NIMBY PSAs: Honolulu
28 Star-Advertiser, Maui News, The Garden Isle Newspaper, Hawaii
29 Tribune Herald, Honolulu Weekly, Maui Weekly, Maui Time Weekly,
30 West Hawaii Today, Fil-Am Courier, Hawaii Herald, Hawaii
31 Filipino Chronicle, Ka Leo (UHM), Pacific Business News,
32 Haleakala Times, Hawaii Island Journal, Lahaina News, Lana'i
33 Times, Maui Bulletin and Molokai Advertiser News.
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the following radio stations,
 3 requesting them to air anti-NIMBY PSAs: Hawaii Public Radio,
 4 KAIM AM & FM, KCCN Radio, KDNN Radio, KHBZ Radio, KHNR Radio,
 5 KHVH Radio, KIKI Radio, KINE Radio, KNDI Radio, KRTR Radio, KSSK
 6 Radio, KUMU Radio, KZOO Radio, KAOI Radio Group, KPOA Radio
 7 Group, KNUI Radio and KKBG Radio

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OFFERED BY:

Pride Cabanilla

Jeffrey [Signature]

John M. [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Michelle Cannell

[Signature]

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