

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING FIRST PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO COMBAT CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS.

1 WHEREAS, people experiencing chronic homelessness are
2 Hawaii's most vulnerable community members, and are the least
3 likely of the homeless population to reach independent living;
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6 WHEREAS, persons experiencing chronic homelessness comprise
7 over thirteen per cent of the homeless population in Hawaii, but
8 require more than fifty per cent of the resources allocated to
9 combat homelessness; and

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11 WHEREAS, hospital and emergency room visits, police
12 interventions, and periods of incarceration for the chronically
13 homeless who suffer from physical and mental disabilities may
14 cost Hawaii between \$35,000 and \$150,000 per person each year;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, research has shown that providing permanent
18 supportive housing can result in significant cost savings for
19 Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, research studies across the country indicate that
22 eighty-five per cent of people experiencing chronic homelessness
23 who move into permanent supportive housing stabilize and
24 maintain that housing; and

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26 WHEREAS, a number of communities implementing housing first
27 programs are seeing reductions in the chronic homeless
28 population; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of
31 permanent supportive housing and housing first programs; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 212, Session Laws of
34 Hawaii 2010, which created a housing first special fund and
35 created a process for implementing housing first programs and
36 services; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Legislature supports and encourages further implementation of housing first programs and services as a key strategy in ending the chronic homelessness of the most vulnerable individuals in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Director of Human Services, and the Executive Director of the Waikiki Health Center.

OFFERED BY: Sharonne Chun Oakland

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