

JAN 19 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING HOMELESSNESS TO BE A MEDICAL CONDITION IN THE STATE FOR PURPOSES OF MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AND RECOGNIZING THAT HOUSING INSTABILITY IS A MAJOR HEALTH FACTOR THAT NEGATIVELY AFFECTS HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of the State's  
2 most significant and challenging social problems; and  
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4 WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Hawaii Statewide Homeless  
5 Point-In-Time conducted in January 2016, there are 7,921  
6 homeless individuals in the State, an overall increase of 4  
7 percent from 2015; and  
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9 WHEREAS, homelessness is a complex issue that requires  
10 continuous resources and coordinated efforts at all levels; and  
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12 WHEREAS, homeless persons face a myriad of issues,  
13 including general health care, mental illness, substance abuse,  
14 loss of employment and income, and a lack of affordable housing;  
15 and  
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17 WHEREAS, the issues affecting homeless persons also impact  
18 the general population through the costs of social and health  
19 care services; and  
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21 WHEREAS, in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, The Queen's Medical  
22 Center reported treating 3,441 patients who were homeless; and  
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24 WHEREAS, treating these homeless individuals is sometimes  
25 uncompensated, as is the case with an unsheltered patient who  
26 reportedly received treatment 12,271 times over two years, which  
27 cost The Queen's Medical Center more than \$5,000,000 per year;  
28 and  
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