

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1206

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 29 2017

RE: S.C.R. No. 4

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services and Housing, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 4 entitled:

"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,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to declare homelessness to be a medical condition in the State for purposes of Medicaid eligibility and to recognize that housing instability is a major health factor that negatively affects homeless individuals' health and well-being.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association, Faith Action for Community Equity, and one individual. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and Department of Human Services.

Your Committees find that homeless persons face a myriad of issues, including general health care, mental illness, substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of affordable housing. These issues affecting homeless persons also impact the general population as the costs to the entire continuum of care,

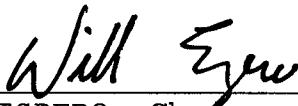


including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home-based services, for treating the State's homeless population continue to increase.

Your Committees further find that there is an integral link between health and housing, especially for individuals who are chronically homeless. Without housing, individuals often struggle to address their health conditions, while people who are unable to address their health challenges often struggle to obtain and retain housing. By recognizing the positive impact that housing stability can have on the health care of homeless individuals, committing resources to assist homeless individuals with stable housing will not only improve the health and well-being of homeless individuals, but it will also provide the State with an opportunity to incur less health care costs for homeless individuals over their lifetime.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Housing that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 4 and recommend that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Human Services  
and Housing,



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WILL ESPERO, Chair



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JOSH GREEN, Chair





The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Housing**  
**HOU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SCR 4</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HMS/HOU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>3/28/17</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ESPERO, Will (C)	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene (VC)				/
KAHELE, Kaiali'i				/
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes