
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE GOVERNOR'S
COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO CONSIDER ENTERING INTO
ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS WITH PROVIDER AGENCIES TO OPEN
ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY HOMELESS SHELTERS IN WAIPAHU.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be a persistent issue in
2 Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, the 2017 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time
5 count revealed that there are over seven thousand people in the
6 State who are homeless; and
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8 WHEREAS, nearly five thousand homeless individuals live on
9 the island of Oahu; and
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11 WHEREAS, over 1,150 individuals experiencing homelessness
12 on Oahu meet the definition of chronically homeless; and
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14 WHEREAS, over four hundred forty veterans experience
15 homelessness on Oahu; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Ewa region of Oahu, which includes Waipahu,
18 experienced a fourteen percent increase in the number of
19 individuals experiencing homelessness from 2016 to 2017; and
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21 WHEREAS, Waipahu residents have raised concerns about a
22 number of homeless encampments, including an encampment that
23 included children beneath the Honowai Street Bridge near the H-1
24 Freeway; and
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26 WHEREAS, there is a known homeless encampment near Hans
27 L'Orange Park, a Waipahu neighborhood baseball park; and



1 WHEREAS, the staff at Hawaii's Plantation Village, an area
2 in Waipahu that showcases twenty replicas of plantation-era
3 buildings, filed more than fifty complaints of homeless
4 individuals trespassing on the property, using water spigots and
5 electrical outlets, and vandalizing village grounds; and

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7 WHEREAS, the closure of the Waipahu Lighthouse Outreach
8 Center, which served as a homeless shelter for ten years, in
9 December 2016 due to the organization's inability to meet new
10 Department of Human Services regulations is an example of the
11 difficulty in maintaining adequate bed space for individuals and
12 families experiencing homelessness in Waipahu; and

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14 WHEREAS, the high cost of rent for existing housing, high
15 cost of construction of new housing, and complex state and
16 county regulations serve as barriers to placing individuals and
17 families experiencing homelessness in affordable, long-term
18 housing in Waipahu; and

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20 WHEREAS, the barriers that prevent placement of individuals
21 and families experiencing homelessness in housing also slow the
22 construction of new housing that would alleviate the
23 homelessness problem; and

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25 WHEREAS, one of the most effective responses to
26 homelessness is one that combines access to shelter and access
27 to available and appropriate social and medical services; and

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29 WHEREAS, there are very few homeless shelters in or near
30 Waipahu, and even fewer options that provide individuals and
31 families experiencing homelessness with both shelter and
32 services; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
37 Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness are
38 requested to consider entering into additional contracts with
39 provider agencies to open additional temporary homeless shelters
40 in Waipahu; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
2 Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness are
3 requested to submit reports to the Legislature no later than
4 twenty days prior to the convening of each of the regular
5 sessions of 2019 and 2020 regarding the progress of any new
6 contracts for temporary homeless shelters in Waipahu; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
10 Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness.
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OFFERED BY:

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