

HB527 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS.

Report Title: Mobile Clinic; Homeless; Appropriation

Description: Appropriates funds to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population. (HB527 HD1)

Companion: [SB347](#)

Current Referral: HMS, CPH/WAM

Introducer(s): OHNO, BROWER, ICHIYAMA, KONG



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 17, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB527 HD1 – RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS**

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, the House Committees on Human Services' and Health's work and recommendations. DHS provides comments that the measure as drafted adversely affects priorities set forth in the Governor's Executive Budget request and the State's plan to address homelessness. DHS respectfully requests that the Legislature support the \$1.5 million in additional funding for homeless outreach.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate an unspecified amount in general funds to establish, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population.

DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) currently contracts homeless outreach services with providers statewide, which may include health services. The primary purpose of outreach providers is to connect unsheltered homeless individuals to assistance with basic needs and to access medical care.

While two mobile clinics may be worthy additions to the array of homeless services, the proposed \$1.4 million appropriation would adversely impact the Governor's budget request of \$1.5 million for homeless outreach services. While statistics for state fiscal year (SFY) 2016 are pending, in SFY 2015, state-funded outreach programs served 8,030 homeless

people statewide. The current goal is to increase outreach services as outreach is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households in the community and to build rapport that connects them to housing and services, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, or shelter. Outreach workers provide a comprehensive array of services, including completing applications for housing and services, housing search, and obtaining identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless outreach, many homeless individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

Additionally, the proposal contemplates the delivery of medical services and identifies a minimum staff of a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, and a psychiatrist. DHS HPO does not procure professional medical services, the committee may want to consult with the Department of Health, health care, and community providers who would be better able to provide the relevant administrative information. DHS is willing to work with the community to develop a plan and strategy.

A 2007 report from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council detailed 33 mobile health care projects that used a variety of models, and vehicles to provide a variety of health services to people with unstable housing. The top three criteria for program success were identified as: selection of service sites, collaboration with partners, and staff effectiveness at building trusting relationships. Some of the obstacles to initiate and maintain the program were: lack of financial capacity, for items such as to purchase maintain, and upgrade the mobile units, pay for clinician hours; vehicle or equipment problems, clinical information management, and staffing. Other obstacles were insufficient space and patient follow up. A copy of this report is accessible at <http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/mobilehealth.pdf>

Without detail as to how many clients a mobile clinic could serve in a year or the information about associated operational and the professional administrative costs, DHS currently has reservations, and we respectfully ask for the Legislature's support of the Governor's executive budget request of \$1.5 million for statewide outreach services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 527 HD1 – RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS.

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. Existing outreach service providers already provide a mobile health clinic, and the Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request that support these services, particularly additional funding to the Department of Human Services for homeless outreach; and funding to the Department of Health for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges and severe substance use disorders.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for establishing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population. The House Committee on Human Services amended this measure by changing the reference to "doctor" in the description of the mobile clinic staff to "primary care provider."

DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) currently contracts homeless outreach services with providers statewide, some of which offer mobile health services. In general, homeless outreach providers help connect unsheltered homeless individuals with basic needs, including medical care.

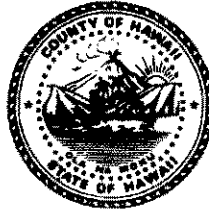
However, outreach is about more than just medical care, and is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households in the community and to build rapport that connects

them to housing and services, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, or shelter. Outreach workers provide a comprehensive array of services, including completing applications for housing and services, housing search, and obtaining identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless outreach, many homeless individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

In addition to homeless outreach provided by HPO contracted providers, the Department of Health (DOH) is requesting funding in the Executive Budget for targeted mental health and substance use treatment services for the unsheltered homeless population. These services are part of the State's comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for outreach, mental health and substance use treatment, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and the State Rent Supplement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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March 15, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs Green, Espero, and Committee members:

**RE: Homelessness: HB 527, HD1; HB 1195, HD 1; HB 1281, HD 1
HB 83, HD1; HB 1240, HD2; HB1098, HD2; SCR 56**

Between your two committees, all the above bills dealing with homelessness will be heard. It is difficult for me to pick and choose among them, and I will defer to your good judgment as to which approaches should move forward and be funded. But I would be remiss if I did not thank you for the attention that you are giving to the issue, and express my hope that you and your fellow legislators will continue to strive to ease this burden and deal humanely with the pain that homelessness afflicts, both on those without shelter and on the community at large.

I should put in a special word for SCR 56. Using Medicaid funds to treat homelessness seems to be such an innovative approach; it deserves extra kudos.

Homelessness is an obvious failure of our society to meet the basic needs of all our people. We cannot hesitate to search for solutions.


Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 14, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committee on Human Services Hearing; Friday, March 17, 2017 at 2:50PM in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 527 HD1, Relating to Mobile Clinics**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). We would like to express my **support** for HB 527, HD1, Relating to Mobile Clinics. This bill would appropriate funds for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 respectively to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to service the homeless population.

At QHS we are committed to providing care for Hawaii's most underserved. This legislation recognizes the great cost that many health care providers take on to care for this vulnerable and underserved population. The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—of treating the homeless population are large and growing. Mobile clinics would help to provide needed non-emergency medical care to homeless individuals in the community. Preventive services assist with mitigating many illnesses and go a long way to reducing the demand for high cost medical services down the road.

QHS shoulders majority of the burden of care for our homeless population in Hawaii. The Hawaii Health Information Corporation (HHIC) reports that our hospitals provided 64 percent of the care for homeless individuals with 10,459 encounters in FY15 as opposed to 5,381 encounters by all other facilities. Over 90 percent of the care QHS provided occurred in the emergency room setting. QHS experienced a net loss of \$10.6 million in FY15 providing unfunded and underfunded care for homeless patients.

I commend the legislature for introducing this measure and urge you to support it. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:39 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB527 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB527

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

Committee On Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB527 HD1 (with proposed modification)

Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 pm, Room 016

The Hawai'i Psychological Association supports a modified version of HB527 HD1, which appropriates funds for establishing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population.

The Hawaii Psychological Association strongly recommends inclusion of a clinical psychologist in the mobile clinic minimum staffing requirements. The homeless population suffers from extremely high rates of mental illness and a more comprehensive approach to their care is required. There is a strong body of scientific evidence that clearly demonstrates that psychotherapy along with medication is more effective than pharmaceutical intervention alone. The combination results in a faster, more complete and enduring response to treatment. Given the critical shortage of psychiatrists in the State of Hawaii, it is unlikely that any will have the time to provide more than medication management to the homeless population. Including a clinical psychologist on the team will allow for the provision of psychotherapy and will result in more effective treatment. In addition, if at some point psychologists are authorized to prescribe, the Department of Human Services will be able to select from a larger pool of available providers, with the advantage that prescribing psychologists will be able to offer the full-range of behavioral health services (psychotherapy and medication).

Including a clinical psychologist as a required member of the mobile staff will significantly improve treatment outcome and success. We support the bill with this recommended modification.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Folen, Ph.D., ABPP
Executive Director

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanly Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Friday, March 17, 2017

2:50 PM, State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Support for H.B. No. 527, H.D. 1, Relating to Mobile Clinics

Aloha, my name is Daniella Orias. I am currently a first year medical student attending school on the island of Oahu. My testimonial is my own and my opinions are not meant to serve as a representation of the beliefs of my school or any of the organizations that I am a part of. However, I would like to testify in support of H.B. No. 527, H.D. 1, relating to mobile clinics, which would provide greater access to medical care to our state's homeless population.

As a medical student, I have had the opportunity to interact and work closely with our homeless community in Kaka'ako. Inadequate access to healthcare is not only a contributing factor to the occurrence of homelessness, but also makes it more difficult for people and families to regain financial security and independence. Lack of housing and hygiene facilities potentiates the health risks for our homeless community members, which is further exacerbated by inadequate access to medical care and preventive services. Although the concerns related to relieving our state's homelessness rates are multifaceted, mobile clinics can help to alleviate some of the burdens placed on homeless individuals and their families.

Mobile clinics such as those in Denver, Seattle, San Jose, and even the Homelessness Outreach and Medical Education Program clinics here on our island of Oahu have seen success by providing care and by serving as a directory to help homeless people gain access to the help and resources they need to improve their health and living situation. However, the state continues to experience a high population of homeless families and individuals. The institution of mobile clinics will allow more people to receive the care that they need. The two funded mobile clinics will provide non-emergency medical care and preventive services which will in turn help to reduce the costs associated with emergent and uninsured care of homeless individuals.

Increasing access to medical services through the implementation of mobile clinics for the homeless will help to create a happier and healthier environment for our state by taking care of our community members like family. I testify in support of H.B. No. 527, H.D. 1, which would provide outreach and medical services to our ohana that need it the most. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniella Orias

Phone: (808) 722-8754
Email: Dorias@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:00 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mbelardo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB527 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM

HB527

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Taxpayers could save some money if we do more PREVENTION than dealing with emergency services treatments. Please, please, please pass this bill. It would provide much needed services to the community.

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March 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 527 RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS
Hearing on March 17, 2017, 2:50pm, Room 016

TO: Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Barbara Polk

I urge the passage of HB 527 which would provide health services to homeless individuals in various parts of the community. The clinics could greatly improve the health of homeless individuals and would save the hospitals and the state a considerable amount of money by treating health issues before they become emergencies. In addition, healthy people are more likely to be able to get jobs and housing, ending their time of houselessness. This, too, would save the city and state a considerable amount of money which would otherwise go for “homeless sweeps,” court costs, and pre-trial detention, etc.

I urge you to support HB 527.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:12 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB527 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB527

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:03 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: kimoc@ihs-hawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB527 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB527

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimo K. Carvalho	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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