
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ENTER INTO
ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS WITH PROVIDER AGENCIES TO OPEN
ADDITIONAL HOMELESS SHELTERS IN WAIPAHU.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness, which causes major public health and
2 societal issues, continues to be one of the most significant and
3 persistent problems in the State; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 2018, according to the Hawaii Statewide Point
6 in Time Count:

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8 (1) There were over six-thousand five-hundred homeless
9 individuals in the State;

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11 (2) There were over four-thousand homeless individuals on
12 the island of Oahu in 2018; and

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14 (3) Nearly half of the homeless individuals on Oahu in
15 2018 were unsheltered; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Statewide Point in Time Count also
18 estimated that in 2018, the Ewa region of Oahu, which includes
19 Waipahu, experienced an 8.2 percent increase in the number of
20 unsheltered homeless individuals compared to the previous year,
21 while the overall unsheltered homeless population on Oahu
22 decreased by 7.7 percent over the same period; and

23
24 WHEREAS, nearly thirty percent of the homeless population
25 in the Ewa region are in Waipahu; and

26
27 WHEREAS, in December 2016, the Waipahu Lighthouse Outreach
28 Center, which had served as a homeless shelter for ten years,
29 permanently closed due to the organization's inability to meet
30 new Department of Human Services regulations; and



1 WHEREAS, the closure of the Waipahu Lighthouse Outreach
2 Center serves as an example of the difficulty in maintaining
3 adequate bed space for individuals and families experiencing
4 homelessness in Waipahu; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the high cost of rent for existing housing, high
7 cost of construction of new housing, and complex state and
8 county laws serve as barriers to the placement of homeless
9 individuals and families in affordable, long-term housing in
10 Waipahu; and

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12 WHEREAS, there are very few homeless shelters in or near
13 Waipahu, and only a handful of those shelters provide homeless
14 individuals and families with necessary services; and

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16 WHEREAS, the continued increase of the number of homeless
17 individuals in Waipahu hinders the community redevelopment
18 outlined in the City and County of Honolulu's Waipahu Town
19 Action Plan; and

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21 WHEREAS, numerous community plans have been made for
22 Waipahu to improve development, preserve its historic character,
23 and prepare the area for rail transit; and

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25 WHEREAS, to implement the Waipahu Town Action Plan, the
26 issues of homelessness in the area must be addressed; and

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28 WHEREAS, steps must be taken to provide necessary
29 assistance to homeless individuals in Waipahu, as well prevent
30 other potential at-risk individuals from becoming homeless; now,
31 therefore,

32
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
35 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
36 Services is requested to enter into additional contracts with
37 provider agencies to open additional homeless shelters in
38 Waipahu; and

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H.C.R. NO. 97

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
3 Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness.
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OFFERED BY:

[Signature]
Ruler
[Signature]
[Signature]

MAR - 8 2019

