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

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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,



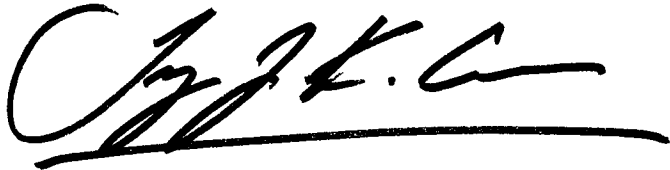
32  
33           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
35 2019, that the Department of Human Services is requested to  
36 enter into additional contracts with provider agencies to open  
37 additional homeless shelters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

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

MAR - 8 2019

