



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

March 22, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 96/HR 89 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO WORK WITH  
STATE IN DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS  
AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN WAIPAHU.**

Hearing: Friday, March 22, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions and offer comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of HCR 96 is to urge City and County of Honolulu to work with state in developing strategies to provide assistance to the homeless and reduce the number of homeless individuals in Waipahu.

DHS and the City and County of Honolulu are members and participants on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH); HICH is chaired by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. The current forum for strategy development happen at the HICH in context of a statewide strategy to end homelessness.

To build more community capacity, DHS supports the current measure SB 398 SD1 HD1, that will require DHS and the State Procurement Office to establish and implement a training program on government procurement for community non-profits. It is important to build the capacity of community nonprofits so that more may participate in providing state funded homeless services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these resolutions.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

March 22, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **HCR 96 / HR89 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO WORK  
WITH STATE IN DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE  
HOMELESS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN  
WAIPAHU**

Hearing: Friday, March 22, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure, and respectfully offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of these resolutions is to urge the City & County of Honolulu to work with the State in developing strategies to provide assistance to the homeless and reduce the number of homeless individuals in Waipahu.

The Coordinator acknowledges that homelessness is a statewide issue that impacts every county. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), which includes participation by the Coordinator and the City & County of Honolulu, has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator works closely with State and County agencies and law enforcement to connect trespass and other enforcement efforts together with the offer of services and housing-focused programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii

decreased by 690 individuals (9.6%). The decrease was one of the largest numeric decreases in homelessness in the country, only exceeded by decreases in California, Florida and Michigan. This recent decrease is the second consecutive decrease in homelessness in Hawaii – representing an overall 18% reduction since 2016.

In Waipahu, the State assists with program for outreach and has assisted in coordinating homeless resource fairs for the past two consecutive years. Specifically, the Department of Human Services (DHS) administers an outreach contract with U.S. Vets to provide homeless outreach services. In addition, the Coordinator and staff collaborated with the Hawaii Plantation Village, Waipahu Community Coalition, and Waipahu Weed and Seed to convene a homeless resource fair in Waipahu in 2017 and 2018. The Coordinator and staff are currently in discussion with the Waipahu Community Coalition to schedule a third resource fair for summer 2019.

Another example of collaboration with the City & County of Honolulu in Waipahu is the partnership between the Coordinator and the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) HELP Honolulu program. HELP Honolulu pairs HPD officers with State-contracted outreach providers who participate in coordinated outreach efforts that place individuals into emergency shelter or other longer-term placements (e.g. residential treatment, medical respite, etc.) with the assistance of the Coordinator and staff. For example, a HPD officer from the District 3 Community Policing Team recently encountered a homeless individual at Hans L'Orange Park that he identified during a HELP operation and worked with the Coordinator to place the individual into shelter at the City's Hale Mauliola navigation center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.