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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness  
2 continues to be one of the State's most significant and  
3 challenging social problems. According to the 2018 Hawaii  
4 statewide homeless point-in-time count conducted in January  
5 2018, there are 6,530 homeless individuals in the State, an  
6 overall decrease of 9.6 per cent from 2017. However, the costs  
7 of caring for this population have continued to grow. Homeless  
8 persons face a wide range of issues, including general health  
9 issues, mental illness, and substance abuse. These issues  
10 affecting homeless persons also impact the general population  
11 through the costs of social and health care services. In 2016,  
12 homeless persons in the State made more than twenty thousand  
13 hospital visits. Medical visits by the homeless cost state  
14 hospitals \$214,000,000 in 2016, up drastically from \$70,500,000  
15 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is sometimes  
16 uncompensated; one hospital alone incurred \$10,500,000 in  
17 uncompensated costs in 2015.



1           The legislature also finds that mobile clinics are  
2 increasing in popularity across the nation as governments try to  
3 find ways to address the health care needs of the homeless  
4 population. In places such as Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado;  
5 San Jose, California; and Seattle, Washington, mobile clinics  
6 offer a variety of free health care services for local homeless  
7 populations, resulting in significant cost savings when compared  
8 to emergency room visits. One estimate from 2016 found that  
9 each dollar spent on mobile clinics saved twelve dollars in  
10 other costs.

11           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
12 purchasing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve  
13 persons residing in ohana zones.

14           SECTION 2. For purposes of this Act, "ohana zone" means a  
15 place:

- 16           (1) That has a program to address basic needs of  
17 individuals experiencing homelessness; and  
18           (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care  
19 services, transportation, and other services may be  
20 offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and



1           transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness  
2           into affordable housing.

3           SECTION 3. (a) There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2020-2021 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to  
8 serve persons residing in ohana zones; provided that:

9           (1) No funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall  
10           be made available unless matching funds are found on a  
11           dollar-for-dollar basis to the amount appropriated by  
12           the State;

13           (2) The staff may include one primary care provider, one  
14           nurse, one pharmacist, one psychiatrist, one clinical  
15           psychologist, and other staff as needed, including a  
16           social worker, an outreach worker, and students  
17           pursuing a degree in medicine or nursing;

18           (3) The mobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the  
19           following services:

20           (A) Non-emergency medical services for chronic,  
21           acute, and episodic conditions;



- 1 (B) Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human
- 2 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
- 3 (C) Family planning;
- 4 (D) Child and family services;
- 5 (E) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- 6 (F) Mental health services;
- 7 (G) Dental care;
- 8 (H) Referral services;
- 9 (I) Shower and laundry services;
- 10 (J) Clean clothing;
- 11 (K) Health insurance enrollment;
- 12 (L) Pharmacy services;
- 13 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes
- 14 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the
- 15 practice of directly delivering health care and
- 16 related services to persons found on the streets,
- 17 in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in
- 18 abandoned buildings; and
- 19 (N) Other assistance services;



1 (4) The department of human services shall identify and  
2 secure other sources of funding, including federal  
3 funding, to provide for matching funds;

4 provided further that the department of human services shall  
5 procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapter 103F,  
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 (b) Subject to the availability of funds, the director of  
8 human services may designate other political subdivisions or  
9 private organizations to participate in the program established  
10 pursuant to this Act; provided that funds provided to any other  
11 political subdivision or private organization may be by a grant  
12 or grant-in-aid as required pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii  
13 Revised Statutes.

14 (c) The sums appropriated shall be expended by the  
15 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the homeless persons residing in ohana zones. (HB36 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

