

JAN 17 2020

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. In 2016, state hospitals billed \$214,000,000
14 in charges for caring for the homeless, up drastically from
15 \$70,500,000 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is
16 sometimes uncompensated; one hospital alone estimates it incurs
17 more than \$10,000,000 in uncompensated costs annually.



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 homeless people; provided that one of the mobile clinics shall
14 be allocated to the county with the largest land mass.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2020-2021 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to
20 serve homeless individuals; provided that:



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- 1 (1) One mobile clinic shall be allocated to the county
2 with the largest land mass;
- 3 (2) No funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall
4 be made available unless the department of human
5 services obtains matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar
6 basis to the amount appropriated by the State;
- 7 (3) The staff may include one primary care provider, one
8 nurse, one pharmacist, one psychiatrist, and other
9 staff as needed, including a social worker, an
10 outreach worker, and students pursuing degrees in
11 medicine or nursing; and
- 12 (4) The mobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the
13 following services:
- 14 (A) Non-emergency medical services for chronic,
15 acute, and episodic conditions;
- 16 (B) Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human
17 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
- 18 (C) Family planning;
- 19 (D) Child and family services;
- 20 (E) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- 21 (F) Mental health services;



- 1 (G) Dental care;
- 2 (H) Referral services;
- 3 (I) Shower and laundry services;
- 4 (J) Clean clothing;
- 5 (K) Health insurance enrollment;
- 6 (L) Pharmacy services;
- 7 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes
- 8 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the
- 9 practice of directly delivering health care and
- 10 related services to persons found living on the
- 11 streets, in parks, along river banks, on beaches,
- 12 and in abandoned buildings; and
- 13 (N) Other assistance services;

14 provided further that the department of human services may
 15 procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapters 103D and
 16 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.


17 (b) The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
 18 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2469

Report Title:

DHS; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate 2 mobile clinics to serve homeless persons; provided that 1 of the mobile clinics shall be allocated to the county of Hawaii. Requires matching funds.

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

