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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. Although the 2018 Hawaii statewide  
4 homeless point-in-time count conducted in January 2018 found  
5 that there are 6,530 homeless individuals in the State, an  
6 overall decrease of 9.6 per cent from 2017, the costs of caring  
7 for this population have continued to grow. Many homeless  
8 persons face a wide range of challenges, including general  
9 health issues, mental illness, and substance abuse issues.  
10 These problems affecting homeless persons also impact the  
11 general population through the costs of social and health care  
12 services. In 2016, homeless persons in the State made more than  
13 twenty thousand hospital visits. In 2016, state hospitals  
14 billed \$214,000,000 in charges for caring for the homeless, up  
15 drastically from \$70,500,000 in 2010. Treatment for these  
16 homeless individuals is sometimes uncompensated; one hospital



1 alone estimates it incurs more than \$10,000,000 in uncompensated  
2 costs annually.

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

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
14 purchasing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve  
15 homeless individuals; provided that one of the mobile clinics  
16 shall be allocated to the county with the largest land mass.

17 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall  
18 establish and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless  
19 individuals; provided that:

20 (1) One mobile clinic shall be allocated to the county  
21 with the largest land mass;



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



- 1 (I) Shower and laundry services;
- 2 (J) Clean clothing;
- 3 (K) Health insurance enrollment;
- 4 (L) Pharmacy services;
- 5 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes
- 6 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the
- 7 practice of directly delivering health care and
- 8 related services to unsheltered homeless persons;
- 9 and
- 10 (N) Other assistance services.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to  
14 purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve  
15 homeless individuals pursuant to this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 human services for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**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 with the largest land mass. Requires matching funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

