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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING INCREASED INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO ASSIST AND DIVERT MORE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, the assistance provided by law enforcement  
2 officers during interactions with individuals experiencing  
3 homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use,  
4 or mental health issues is greatly enhanced when the officers  
5 are part of a coordinated and collaborative approach involving  
6 social service providers having specialized training and  
7 experience in addressing the needs of these individuals; and  
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9           WHEREAS, this coordinated approach was pioneered in King  
10 County, Washington, in 2011 as a voluntary diversion program for  
11 individuals who were repeatedly being arrested for low-level  
12 criminal activity, and included collaboration among the Seattle  
13 Police Department, King County Sheriff's Office, King County  
14 Prosecutor, Seattle City Attorney, Washington State Department  
15 of Corrections, and treatment providers and nonprofit  
16 organizations; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the King County program, also known as Seattle's  
19 LEAD or Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, diverted  
20 individuals engaged in low-level drug crimes, prostitution, and  
21 crimes associated with poverty away from the criminal justice  
22 system--thus bypassing prosecution and jail time--and connected  
23 them with intensive case managers to provide crisis response,  
24 immediate psychosocial assessment, and long-term wraparound  
25 services, including substance use disorder treatment and stable  
26 housing; and  
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28           WHEREAS, this strategy of working with law enforcement  
29 officers to intercept and channel individuals into community-



1 based interventions effectively disrupted the cycling of these  
2 individuals through the criminal justice system, using a harm  
3 reduction-based model of care that aimed to help program  
4 participants meet their basic needs and achieve stability in the  
5 community; and

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7 WHEREAS, multiple evaluations of Seattle's LEAD program  
8 have identified reductions in recidivism and in use of the  
9 criminal justice system, along with meaningful improvements in  
10 housing and employment outcomes for program participants; and

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12 WHEREAS, the LEAD model produced such a positive response  
13 that in 2015, the White House hosted a national convening of  
14 delegates from nearly thirty United States jurisdictions that  
15 included district attorneys, police chiefs, city council  
16 members, community police reform advocates, state legislators,  
17 and human services providers; and

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19 WHEREAS, the LEAD model is now identified as a promising  
20 practice by the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of  
21 Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice is  
22 providing technical assistance grants for other jurisdictions  
23 interested in replicating the LEAD program; and

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25 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, pilot efforts to adopt the LEAD model  
26 were made by county police departments and in 2017, the  
27 Legislature funded Honolulu's LEAD program through the Alcohol  
28 and Drug Abuse Division of the Department of Health, in  
29 collaboration with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness;  
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, a two-year program evaluation report published in  
33 2020 found that program clients reported decreased use of  
34 emergency shelters; decreased hospital admissions; fewer  
35 emergency room visits; decreased methamphetamine use; greater  
36 housing stability; and an overall improvement in quality of  
37 life, due to greater social support, less stress, and improved  
38 mental health; and

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40 WHEREAS, given the demonstrated success of LEAD-style  
41 programs nationally, on Oahu, and in neighbor island counties,  
42 further efforts should be made to increase interagency



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1 coordination and collaboration between county law enforcement  
2 agencies, social service providers, and other stakeholders to  
3 assist and divert more individuals from the criminal justice  
4 system; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that county police  
9 departments are requested to develop and provide updated and  
10 expanded training, in collaboration and consultation with the  
11 Department of Health and University of Hawaii, to officers  
12 having frequent contact with individuals experiencing  
13 homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use,  
14 or mental health issues; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
17 requested to provide trained personnel to accompany county  
18 police officers to calls involving individuals experiencing  
19 homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use,  
20 or mental health issues, for the purpose of providing assistance  
21 in addressing the particular needs of these individuals,  
22 including referrals to any necessary support and treatment  
23 services; and the Department of Health is also requested to  
24 collaborate and consult with county police departments to  
25 develop updated and expanded training curriculum for county  
26 police officers; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
29 requested to provide technical assistance to county police  
30 departments and the Department of Health, such as assistance  
31 with the following suggested endeavors:

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33 (1) Training and professional development opportunities,  
34 including continuing education courses, for behavioral  
35 health and mental health personnel employed or  
36 contracted by the Department of Health;

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38 (2) The development of a school-to-work pipeline to  
39 rapidly respond to the increased demand for behavioral  
40 health, mental health, and other social service  
41 providers, including the establishment of paid student  
42 externships wherein students enrolled in a health



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1 science- or social science-related program of the  
 2 University of Hawaii system may gain practical work  
 3 experience in assisting individuals experiencing  
 4 homelessness, behavioral health issues including  
 5 substance use, or mental health issues, under the  
 6 supervision of qualified Department of Health  
 7 personnel; and

- 8  
 9 (3) An assessment and evaluation of the current degree of  
 10 coordination and collaboration between county law  
 11 enforcement agencies, the Department of Health and any  
 12 of its contracted service providers, and any other  
 13 relevant stakeholders involved in assisting  
 14 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral  
 15 health issues including substance use, or mental  
 16 health issues; and

17  
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's  
 20 Coordinator on Homelessness; Director of Health; President of  
 21 the University of Hawaii; Chiefs of Police of the counties of  
 22 Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and of the City and County of Honolulu; and  
 23 Executive Director of Partners in Care.  
 24  
 25  
 26

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

