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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **James Koshiba**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
House Committees on Housing and Health & Homelessness
February 10, 2023
11:20 a.m., Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Bill 788
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Aloha Chair Hashimoto, Chair Belatti, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the intent of this bill, and to offer comments.

This bill appropriates funds for DHS to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in `Ohana Zones. On matters of implementation, I defer to DHS.

There is certainly a need for medical care and health services that meet homeless individuals, "where they are at." Mobile clinics can indeed provide much needed care and assist in preventing visits to hospital emergency departments by individuals experiencing homelessness.

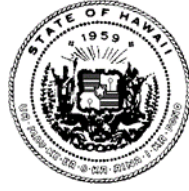
However, the need for mobile clinics will vary widely by Ohana Zone project. Ohana Zones are intended to provide places of stability, safety, shelter or housing, for unhoused individuals, reducing their dependence on emergency rooms and providing a venue for on-site services when needed. As such, some Ohana Zone projects will be served by on-site providers; others may benefit from visits from a medical services providers.

Mobile clinics may have greater impact if deployed to reach unsheltered homeless individuals in areas where emergency room utilization is high. In general, the desired impact of the bill, and of mobile clinics, might be enhanced by additional assessment of needs, opportunities, and existing services prior to enactment and implementation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
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February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 788 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2023, 11:20 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, defers to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and Department of Health, and offers comments. Also, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The bill's purpose is to appropriate moneys for DHS to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in `Ohana Zones.

DHS acknowledges that homeless individuals may experience high disease burdens and mortality rates. Consequently, homeless individuals are more likely to use emergency and other medical services frequently. HB 833 also proposes a mobile clinic to provide medication-assisted treatment.

DHS requests clarification regarding the mechanism to fund mobile clinic services. Section 2(a) on page 3, lines 6-8, requires mobile clinic services to be procured under chapter

103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), while Section 2(d) on page 4, line 19 through page 5, line 4 allows for funds to be provided by a grant or grant-in-aid (GIA) under chapter 42F, HRS. The GIA process would eliminate the need to post a Request for Proposals and the process that follows.

Additionally, while DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) currently contracts homeless outreach services with providers statewide, HPO does not procure professional medical services. Accordingly, DHS defers to the Department of Health if the intent is to compensate health care professionals directly. However, if health care professionals enroll as Medicaid providers of one or more of the QUEST Integration (QI) plans, it would be possible for providers to bill the individual's QI plan for allowed health care services delivered at the mobile clinic.

DHS further notes that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness currently administers the funds of the 'Ohana Zones pilot program, and DHS defers to the Coordinator regarding the impact of this measure on the 'Ohana Zones pilot program.

These proposed services will complement current homeless services contracted by the DHS and provide additional services in both continua of care on Oahu and the neighboring islands. Furthermore, diverting frequent users of emergency medical services may result in some savings after evaluation of the cost of a mobile clinic.

Finally, DHS will require additional resources to administer the proposed mobile clinic services. As the session progresses, DHS will confer with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and other stakeholders and update the resources necessary to operate such a program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Health and Homelessness and Housing
Friday, February 10, 2023; 11:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0788, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Belatti, Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of House Bill No. 0788, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee: would:

- (1) Direct the Department of Human Services to operate two (2) mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones;
- (2) Specify that the mobile clinics be procured in accordance with the Procurement Code, Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (3) Allow the Director of Human Services to designate other political subdivisions or private organizations to participate in the mobile clinics so long as moneys provided to any other political subdivision or private organization be by grant or grant-in-aid in accordance with Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (4) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics; provided that no funds be made available unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by other sources of funding.

This bill would also take effect on July 1, 2023.

Due to advances in technology, health care professionals are able to provide desperately needed services "in the field" and help populations that are greatly underserved. For the homeless and other marginalized groups, a simple cold or a scratch can linger and develop into more serious maladies requiring expensive treatments in the emergency room. These costs go unpaid and ultimately are borne by all of society through higher insurance premium rates, higher treatment costs and greater utilization of social services.

From that context, the use of mobile clinics is potentially a "game-changer" in health care. Professionals are able to go to where the patients are and treat injuries and sicknesses at an earlier stage to prevent them from getting worse and more costly to address.

This approach is already being taken and used in various communities throughout the State. HPCA members currently utilize mobile clinics to provide primary care services to the underserved.

While we applaud the intent of this measure, we have concerns on how the implementation of services by two State-run mobile clinics will be integrated with those that are already in use. There would be a need to ensure that areas serviced do not overlap or else other equally-needy communities are not left out from these services.

If the intent of this measure is promote the use of mobile clinics in underserved areas, this Committee may want to consider providing DHS the flexibility to contract with nonprofits that already do this to possibly expand service areas and the scope of services provided. Ultimately, that would facilitate the underlying goal of this measure.

With those concerns, the HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of this measure and respectfully urges its approval for further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-788

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:21:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 11:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports HB 788, which appropriates moneys for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones.

Mobile medical units are a key way to provide a range of care services to those who are unhoused and those who have difficulty accessing transportation to obtain care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-788

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:28:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 11:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill which appropriates moneys for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate 2 mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones. These clinics would be a welcome addition to the services provided by the communities and organizations that currently help our unhoused folks. I SUPPORT this bill and hope that this will be something that the Dept. has already researched, knows the budget and will be ready to "roll" immediately with the passing of this bill.

HB-788

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:22:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 11:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Reed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I accidently sent in a support I am ademently against this. AS a person of loow income having to pay 25 vfor an application could break me of 100 quickly. And the landlords could just sit therfe and collect 25 until it is rented.

HB-788

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:42:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 11:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 788. The more community outreach for the homeless, the better. Primarily, this population needs some sort of housing, in many instances institutional-like supportive housing , but in the meantime, mobile services are badly needed and they should be supported and increased.

I am part of a non-profit organization that provides a meal one month a year for the Kailua Houseless Coalition's service day and lunch for the homeless at the Kailua Y. Mobile service units provide showers and hygiene products, a lunch and snack bags, and supplies are provided. There are social services staff there as well to counsel participants regarding housing, job and educational opportunities, etc., and physicians volunteer and provide medical exams and care. There are also volunteers giving haircuts.

These mobile units are badly needed and very necessary. Thank you for introducing this bill.