
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 Hawaii's most challenging social
3 problems. The 2022 Hawaii statewide homeless point-in-time
4 count identified 5,973 persons in the State experiencing
5 homelessness. Although this represents a decrease of 7.5 per
6 cent since 2020 and is the lowest statewide count since 2010,
7 the costs of caring for homeless persons are rising.

8 The legislature recognizes that, in the absence of regular
9 medical and dental care, many homeless persons are forced to
10 seek emergency services. Each year, homeless persons in the
11 State make tens of thousands of emergency hospital visits.
12 Hospital stays for homeless persons cost state hospitals
13 hundreds of millions of dollars per year, and many of the
14 hospitals' costs for homeless care go uncompensated. Ambulance
15 services alone for homeless patients can cost up to \$1,000 per
16 transport.



1 The legislature notes that many states are now using mobile
2 clinics to address the health care needs of their homeless
3 communities. Large cities like Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado;
4 San Jose, California; and New Orleans, Louisiana, use mobile
5 clinics to provide medical care and social services. They offer
6 routine care, dental care, preventative care, disease testing,
7 referral services, and other forms of care to persons who might
8 not otherwise have access. Mobile clinics also allow providers
9 to tailor their services to specific communities and to offer
10 flexible care for persons who are isolated, vulnerable, and
11 displaced.

12 The legislature also finds that mobile clinics are more
13 cost-effective than other health services. Estimates show that
14 communities using mobile clinics experience an average of six
15 hundred fewer emergency room visits each year. The routine and
16 preventative care the clinics offer can also reduce the amount
17 of care a person may need over their lifetime. According to
18 Mobile Health Map, for every \$1 spent on mobile health, a state
19 will save \$12.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
2 moneys to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to
3 serve homeless persons in the State's ohana zones.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
5 purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve
6 homeless persons residing in ohana zones. The mobile clinic
7 services shall be procured pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes.

9 (b) The staff of each mobile clinic may include:

- 10 (1) One primary care provider;
- 11 (2) One nurse;
- 12 (3) One pharmacist;
- 13 (4) One psychiatrist;
- 14 (5) One social worker;
- 15 (6) One outreach worker;
- 16 (7) Students pursuing degrees in medicine or nursing; and
- 17 (8) Other staff as needed.

18 (c) The mobile clinics may provide services including:

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



- 1 (2) Testing for sexually transmitted diseases, human
- 2 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
- 3 (3) Family planning;
- 4 (4) Child and family services;
- 5 (5) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- 6 (6) Mental health services;
- 7 (7) Dental care;
- 8 (8) Referral services;
- 9 (9) Shower and laundry services;
- 10 (10) Clean clothing;
- 11 (11) Health insurance enrollment;
- 12 (12) Pharmacy services;
- 13 (13) Street medicine; provided that for the purpose of this
- 14 paragraph, "street medicine" means the practice of
- 15 directly delivering health care and related services
- 16 to persons found on the streets, in parks, along river
- 17 banks, on beaches, and in abandoned buildings; and
- 18 (14) Other assistive services.
- 19 (d) Subject to the availability of funds, the director of
- 20 human services may designate other political subdivisions or
- 21 private organizations to participate in the mobile clinics



1 established pursuant to this Act; provided that moneys provided
2 to any other political subdivision or private organization may
3 be by a grant or grant-in-aid as required pursuant to chapter
4 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 (e) For purposes of this Act, "ohana zone" means a place:

6 (1) That has a program to address the basic needs of
7 persons experiencing homelessness; and

8 (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care
9 services, transportation, and other services may be
10 offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and
11 transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness
12 into affordable housing.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2024-2025 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to
18 serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones; provided that no
19 funds appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be made available
20 unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by other sources of
21 funding; provided further that the department of human services



H.B. NO. 788

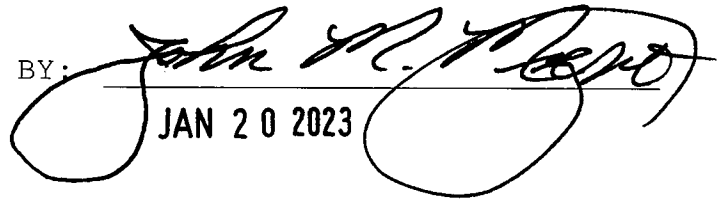
1 shall identify and secure other sources of funding, including
2 federal funding, to provide the matching funds.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 788

Report Title:

DHS; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness; Ohana Zones; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate 2 mobile clinics to serve homeless persons residing in ohana zones.

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