

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE ULIA PŌPILIKIA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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February 14, 2024

The Honorable Representative Della Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: HB1852, Relating to Making an Appropriation to the
Department of Emergency Services of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members:

On behalf of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, I strongly support HB1852. This measure will help expand the services of the City and County of Honolulu's C.O.R.E program outside urban Honolulu.

C.O.R.E. was started in December 2021 with an initial staff of six Community Health Workers and two medical personnel which has now expanded to a staff of 34. Currently funded through both Federal grants and City general funds, there is only enough available moving forward to maintain our current level of service.

An expansion of service outside of urban Honolulu using the proposed \$3.5 million appropriation will allow C.O.R.E. to increase Community Health Workers and medical personnel by sixteen, and obtain additional equipment and supplies necessary to support this increase.

	FY 25	FY 26
Salaries	\$977,853.00	\$1,016,968.00
Fringe	\$547,696.00	\$569,602.00
CE	\$113,941.00	\$113,940.00
Equipment (AED, SUV, and radios)	\$160,000.00	\$0.00

The Honorable Representative Della Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness
February 12, 2024
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Over the past two years, C.O.R.E. has engaged 797 individuals. C.O.R.E. has done outreach with these individuals nearly 1,800 times. C.O.R.E. continues to strive to get individuals on their roster of 172 (those who have signed consent forms indicating their willingness to accept assistance). C.O.R.E. has successfully facilitated housing for 52 people and has addressed approximately 3,000 needs of clients. These needs include but are not limited to general wellness, obtaining shelter, financial paperwork, retrieval of documents, and medical assistance. C.O.R.E.'s primary focus currently is Chinatown, Iwilei, Downtown, and Waikīkī.

This funding will allow us to provide a C.O.R.E. secondary hub in the Waipahū area and provide expanded service to the Leeward Coast through Central O'ahu and the North Shore.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 723-7800 or james.ireland@honolulu.gov.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ireland", written in a cursive style.

James H.E. Ireland, M.D.
Director