
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH HOMELESS
SAFE ZONES.

1 WHEREAS, addressing the needs of those living without
2 permanent housing has been an extremely difficult situation to
3 resolve; and
4

5 WHEREAS, despite the efforts of many to tackle the issue of
6 homelessness, the problem continues to increase, and communities
7 concerned about the health and safety of their residents have
8 demanded that homeless persons be removed from areas in their
9 communities where they congregate; and
10

11 WHEREAS, homeless persons have been periodically removed
12 from these areas to allow the public access to and use of these
13 public areas and to reduce the perceived threat of criminal
14 activity; and
15

16 WHEREAS, removal from one location does not address the
17 underlying reasons for homelessness, whether societal or
18 personal, and may worsen the plight of the homeless by causing
19 the loss or destruction of essential personal property; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature is striving to address long-term
22 solutions to homelessness, including repairing or building
23 hundreds of public housing units, providing housing subsidies
24 and services, employment and job training programs, ways of
25 combating substance abuse, and food distribution programs; and
26

27 WHEREAS, while long-term solutions are vital, they do not
28 respond to the immediate problems faced by homeless persons who
29 are constantly under the threat of removal from their current
30 location; and



1 WHEREAS, one concept that would offer an immediate solution
2 is the establishment of homeless safe zones that would provide a
3 designated area for the homeless to stay at night in a
4 reasonably safe and supervised setting; and
5

6 WHEREAS, there are private organizations that are ready and
7 willing to provide this type of service to the homeless - some
8 that are even willing to provide this service on their own
9 property; and
10

11 WHEREAS, under section 356D-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes
12 (HRS), it is the responsibility of the Hawaii Public Housing
13 Authority (HPHA) to:
14

- 15 (1) Administer and operate homeless facilities and any
16 other program for the homeless authorized by part VII
17 of Chapter 356D, HRS, relating to homeless assistance;
18
- 19 (2) Establish programs for the homeless; and
20
- 21 (3) Take any other actions necessary to effectuate the
22 purposes of part VII of Chapter 356D, HRS, relating to
23 homeless assistance;
24

25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, HPHA is authorized under section 356D-125, HRS, to
28 contract with provider agencies to administer homeless
29 facilities; now, therefore,
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that HPHA is urged to contract
34 with provider agencies to establish homeless safe zones; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that homeless safe zones established
37 by the provider agency should, at a minimum, provide basic
38 sanitary facilities and a place for the homeless to sleep, but
39 may or may not offer bedding or the protection of a security
40 guard; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that provider agencies may either
2 provide the services on their own property, use grant or other
3 funds to rent the property, or lease or otherwise contract with
4 the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to use
5 available public lands; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR and other state agencies
8 provide assistance to HPHA and any provider agencies contracting
9 with HPHA, pursuant to section 356D-124, HRS, in identifying,
10 contracting, and conveying land and improvements available for
11 use by provider agencies as homeless safe zones; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
14 is requested also to provide assistance to HPHA and any provider
15 agencies contracting with HPHA by donating land for use as
16 homeless safe zones; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
20 Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Chairperson of the Board of
21 Land and Natural Resources, and Mayor of the City and County of
22 Honolulu.

