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# HOUSE 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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21           WHEREAS, this body 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  
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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  
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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  
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11 WHEREAS, under section 356D-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
12 (HRS), it is the responsibility of the Hawaii Public Housing  
13 Authority (HPHA) to:  
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- 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;  
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- 19 (2) Establish programs for the homeless; and  
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- 21 (3) Take any other actions necessary to effectuate the  
22 purposes of part VII of Chapter 356D, HRS, relating to  
23 homeless assistance;  
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25 and  
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27 WHEREAS, HPHA is authorized under section 356D-125, HRS, to  
28 contract with provider agencies to administer homeless  
29 facilities; now, therefore,  
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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, that HPHA is urged to contract with provider agencies  
34 to establish homeless safe zones; and  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Hawaii Public  
20 Housing Authority, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
21 Resources, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

