

MAR 13 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO ASSEMBLE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES; INVESTIGATE SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND PRIVATE LAND FOR INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROJECTS; AND PREPARE A PLAN TO DEVELOP A DEMONSTRATION HOUSING PROJECT FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES THAT CAN SERVE AS A MODEL STATEWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness is a complex and multi-faceted issue
2 that requires planning, coordination, implementation, and
3 funding across federal, state, county, business, local, and
4 community lines; and

5
6 WHEREAS, although local government agencies, non-profit
7 service providers, and other private sector organizations have
8 diligently and successfully assisted homeless individuals, the
9 number of individuals and families in Hawaii who are homeless
10 continues to increase, with the number of homeless individuals
11 served increasing by over one thousand from 13,000 in 2009 to
12 approximately 14,000 in 2012; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are disproportionately
15 represented among Hawaii's homeless at twenty-eight percent of
16 the homeless served; and

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18 WHEREAS, homelessness is often a revolving door for many
19 Native Hawaiian families because of underlying and unresolved
20 socioeconomic problems such as unemployment, poor health, and
21 substance abuse; and

22
23 WHEREAS, to break the cycle of homelessness and end the
24 generational neglect of children within homeless Native Hawaiian
25 families, it is necessary to develop innovative housing
26 solutions that provide the families with stable housing and
27 access to support and to strengthen services to resolve
28 underlying problems; and

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30 WHEREAS, developing these solutions will require the
31 cooperation and collaboration of the agencies and organizations



1 from the governmental, private, business, and non-profit sectors
2 of our community; and

3
4 WHEREAS, because innovative housing solutions for homeless
5 Native Hawaiian families may include traditional, culturally
6 based solutions, such as re-creating "kauhale" housing
7 complexes, the participation of expert Hawaiian cultural
8 practitioners will be required; now, therefore,

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
12 that the Coordinator on Homelessness is directed to assemble a
13 working group of individuals from federal, state, and county
14 government agencies, the business community, private sector
15 organizations, non-profit service providers, and Hawaiian
16 cultural practitioners to:

- 17
18 (1) Identify innovate housing solutions for homeless
19 Native Hawaiian families;
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21 (2) Investigate suitable and available federal, state,
22 county, and private land for innovative housing
23 projects; and
24
25 (3) Prepare a plan to develop a demonstration housing
26 project for homeless Native Hawaiian families that can
27 serve as a model statewide; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group, chaired by
30 the Coordinator on Homelessness, is requested to include
31 representatives from the following:

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33 (1) Department of Human Services;
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35 (2) Department of Health;
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37 (3) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
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39 (4) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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41 (5) Department of Hawaiian Home Lands;
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43 (6) Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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- 1 (7) Interagency Council on Homelessness;
- 2
- 3 (8) Workforce Hawaii;
- 4
- 5 (9) Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation;
- 6
- 7 (10) Department of Agriculture;
- 8
- 9 (11) United States Department of Housing and Urban
- 10 Development;
- 11
- 12 (12) United States Department of Agricultural Rural
- 13 Development;
- 14
- 15 (13) County Parks and Recreation Departments;
- 16
- 17 (14) University of Hawaii Department of Urban and Regional
- 18 Planning;
- 19
- 20 (15) University of Hawaii School of Architecture;
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- 22 (16) Partners in Development Foundation, Inc.;
- 23
- 24 (17) Blueprint for Change;
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- 26 (18) Hawaiian Community Assets;
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- 28 (19) Alternative Structures International, Hawaii;
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- 30 (20) Hawaii Habitat for Humanity; and
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- 32 (21) Appropriate, Hawaiian cultural practitioner groups;
- 33 and
- 34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
36 to report its findings and recommendations, including:

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- 38 (1) Recommended solutions to the problem of homeless
- 39 Native Hawaiians;
- 40
- 41 (2) Identification of potential land sites for innovative
- 42 housing projects; and
- 43



1 (3) A draft plan to develop a demonstration project for
 2 homeless Native Hawaiians,
 3
 4 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
 5 convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and
 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Coordinator on
 9 Homelessness; Director of Human Services; Director of Health;
 10 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the
 11 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Hawaiian
 12 Homes Commission; Executive Director of the Office of Hawaiian
 13 Affairs; Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing and Finance
 14 Development Corporation; Chairperson of the Board of
 15 Agriculture; Department Chair of the University of Hawaii
 16 Department of Urban and Regional Planning; Dean of the
 17 University of Hawaii School of Architecture; United States
 18 Department of Housing and Urban Development; United States
 19 Department of Agricultural Rural Development; Directors of the
 20 County Parks and Recreation Departments; Partners in Development
 21 Foundation, Inc.; Blueprint for Change; Hawaiian Community
 22 Assets; Alternative Structures International, Hawaii; and Hawaii
 23 Habitat for Humanity.
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