SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH PLANS TO GATHER DATA REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of Hawaii's most significant and challenging social problems; and

WHEREAS, homeless persons face a myriad of issues, including general health care and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the issues affecting homeless persons also impact the general population through the costs of social and healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, information on the usage of healthcare can assist the Governor, Legislature, and public to make informed policy decisions about the allocation of resources and services necessary to assist the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the new diagnosis classification system, ICD-10, includes diagnoses codes for homelessness (Z59.0) and housing instability (Z59.1); and

WHEREAS, encouraging clinicians to recognize the social impact of one's housing, employment, social networks, and economic status has been shown to improve communication between doctors and patients that can lead to improved health; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that healthcare providers and health plans are requested to gather data regarding the use of publicly funded medical assistance programs by persons experiencing homelessness; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that healthcare providers are requested to use the ICD-10 diagnoses codes for homelessness when they are medically indicated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to work with healthcare providers and health plans to increase awareness and promote the appropriate use of the ICD-10 diagnoses codes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to use data regarding the utilization of healthcare by homeless individuals to explore creative and innovative solutions to address homeless individuals' healthcare needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, and Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY: [Signatures]