

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
2 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
3 challenging social problems. According to the 2018 Hawaii
4 statewide homeless point-in-time count conducted in January
5 2018, there are 6,530 homeless individuals in the State, an
6 overall decrease of 9.6 per cent from 2017. However, the costs
7 of caring for this population have continued to grow. Homeless
8 persons face a wide range of issues, including general health
9 issues, mental illness, and substance abuse. These issues
10 affecting homeless persons also impact the general population
11 through the costs of social and health care services. In 2016,
12 homeless persons in the State made more than twenty thousand
13 hospital visits. Medical visits by the homeless cost state
14 hospitals \$214,000,000 in 2016, up drastically from \$70,500,000
15 in 2010. Treating these homeless individuals is sometimes
16 uncompensated; one hospital alone incurred \$10,500,000 in
17 uncompensated costs in 2015.



S.B. NO. 526

1 The legislature also finds that mobile clinics are
2 increasing in popularity across the nation as governments try to
3 find ways to address the health care needs of the homeless
4 population. In places such as Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado;
5 San Jose, California; and Seattle, Washington, mobile clinics
6 offer a variety of free health care services for local homeless
7 populations, resulting in significant cost savings when compared
8 to emergency room visits. One estimate from 2016 found that
9 each dollar spent on mobile clinics saved twelve dollars in
10 other costs.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for
12 purchasing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve
13 persons residing in ohana zones.

14 SECTION 2. For purposes of this Act, "ohana zone" means a
15 place:

- 16 (1) That has a program to address basic needs of
17 individuals experiencing homelessness; and
- 18 (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care
19 services, transportation, and other services may be
20 offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and



S.B. NO. 526

1 transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness
2 into affordable housing.

3 SECTION 3. (a) There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2020-2021 to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to
8 serve persons residing in ohana zones; provided that:

9 (1) No funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall
10 be made available unless the entities identified in
11 subparagraphs (a) to (c) each separately provide
12 matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis to the
13 amount appropriated by the State:

14 (A) City and county of Honolulu;

15 (B) The Queen's Medical Center; and

16 (C) Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui;

17 (2) The staff may include one primary care provider, one
18 nurse, one pharmacist, one psychiatrist, and other
19 staff as needed, including a social worker, an
20 outreach worker, and students pursuing a degree in
21 medicine or nursing; and



- 1 (3) The mobile clinics may provide, at minimum, the
2 following services:
- 3 (A) Non-emergency medical services for chronic,
4 acute, and episodic conditions;
 - 5 (B) Testing for sexually transmitted disease, human
6 immunodeficiency virus, and hepatitis;
 - 7 (C) Family planning;
 - 8 (D) Child and family services;
 - 9 (E) Behavioral health and substance abuse services;
 - 10 (F) Mental health services;
 - 11 (G) Dental care;
 - 12 (H) Referral services;
 - 13 (I) Shower and laundry services;
 - 14 (J) Clean clothing;
 - 15 (K) Health insurance enrollment;
 - 16 (L) Pharmacy services;
 - 17 (M) Street medicine; provided that for the purposes
18 of this subparagraph, "street medicine" means the
19 practice of directly delivering health care and
20 related services to persons found on the streets,



S.B. NO. 526

1 in parks, along river banks, on beaches, and in
 2 abandoned buildings; and

3 (N) Other assistance services;

4 provided further that the department of human services may
 5 procure the mobile clinic services pursuant to chapter 103F,
 6 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 (b) Subject to the availability of funds, the director of
 8 human services may designate other political subdivisions or
 9 private organizations in addition to those listed in subsection

10 (a) (1) to participate in the program established pursuant to
 11 this Act; provided that the matching funds requirement
 12 established in subsection (a) (1) shall also apply to the
 13 designated political subdivision or private organization.

14 (c) The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
 15 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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S.B. NO. 526

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S.B. NO. 526

Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Mobile Clinics; Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase, staff, and operate two mobile clinics to serve the homeless persons residing in ohana zones. Requires matching funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

