



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

April 16, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

**SUBJECT: HCR 96 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO WORK WITH
STATE IN DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE
HOMELESS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN
WAIPAHU**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure, and respectfully offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to urge the City & County of Honolulu to work with the State in developing strategies to provide assistance to the homeless and reduce the number of homeless individuals in Waipahu.

The Coordinator acknowledges that homelessness is a statewide issue that impacts every county. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), which includes participation by the Coordinator and the City & County of Honolulu, has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator works closely with State and County agencies and law enforcement to connect trespass and other enforcement efforts together with the offer of services and housing-focused programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's

framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii decreased by 690 individuals (9.6%). The decrease was one of the largest numeric decreases in homelessness in the country, only exceeded by decreases in California, Florida and Michigan. This recent decrease is the second consecutive decrease in homelessness in Hawaii – representing an overall 18% reduction since 2016.

In Waipahu, the State assists with program for outreach and has assisted in coordinating homeless resource fairs for the past two consecutive years. Specifically, the Department of Human Services (DHS) administers an outreach contract with U.S. Vets to provide homeless outreach services. In addition, the Coordinator and staff collaborated with the Hawaii Plantation Village, Waipahu Community Coalition, and Waipahu Weed and Seed to convene a homeless resource fair in Waipahu in 2017 and 2018. The Coordinator and staff are currently in discussion with the Waipahu Community Coalition to schedule a third resource fair for summer 2019.

Another example of collaboration with the City & County of Honolulu in Waipahu is the partnership between the Coordinator and the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) HELP Honolulu program. HELP Honolulu pairs HPD officers with State-contracted outreach providers who participate in coordinated outreach efforts that place individuals into emergency shelter or other longer-term placements (e.g. residential treatment, medical respite, etc.) with the assistance of the Coordinator and staff. For example, a HPD officer from the District 3 Community Policing Team recently encountered a homeless individual at Hans L'Orange Park that he identified during a HELP operation and worked with the Coordinator to place the individual into shelter at the City's Hale Mauliola navigation center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

HCR-96

Submitted on: 4/15/2019 4:23:17 PM

Testimony for HMS on 4/16/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Testifying for Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

The O'ahu County Committee of the O'ahu County Democrats write in support of HCR 96.

We know that the visibility and incidence of homelessness does not burden all communities equally, although there is homelessness in every community in Hawai'i. We recognize that Waipahu has been especially affected by large numbers of houseless persons, such as on the makai side of the community.

City and State cooperation and coordination appears to be the right approach, given the scarcity of resources for tackling resources and the multiple jurisdictions that a single encampment may cross. We Democrats hope to someday end homeless an O'ahu. This incremental step may lead to more human beings reclaiming their housing security, health and freedom Please vote in favor. Mahalo.

Sincerely yours,
Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair
O'ahu County Committee, O'ahu County Democrats