
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has one of
2 the highest rates of homelessness per capita in the nation.
3 Additionally, the legislature finds that The Queen's Medical
4 Center provides the majority of medical care to the State's
5 homeless population. According to the Laulima Data Alliance,
6 from January 2016 to September 2018, The Queen's Medical Center
7 experienced approximately sixty per cent of all hospital visits
8 by homeless persons on Oahu and forty-three per cent of all
9 hospital visits by homeless persons in the State.

10 Recognizing the high needs of the State's most medically
11 fragile homeless populations, the legislature established the
12 emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and
13 the medical respite pilot program in Part II of Act 209, Session
14 Laws of Hawaii 2018. Through contracts with the department of
15 human services, The Queen's Medical Center was able to provide
16 medical respite services and intensive care navigation services



1 to patients experiencing homelessness and patients at risk of
2 experiencing homelessness.

3 Through the emergency department homelessness assessment
4 pilot program, the Queen's Care Coalition was able to identify
5 homeless patients with high utilization of emergency department
6 services and deliver short-term, post-discharge navigation
7 services to special populations to reduce reliance on acute care
8 by connecting patients to community services. The Queen's Care
9 Coalition provided one hundred thirty-one homeless adults with
10 navigation services during the contract period of September 1,
11 2018, to June 30, 2019. Of the homeless adults served:

12 (1) Ninety-four per cent were connected with community
13 resources;

14 (2) Sixty-five per cent were document-ready for housing;
15 and

16 (3) Ninety-two per cent of the individuals that were
17 connected to permanent housing were able to maintain
18 permanent housing after three months.

19 The emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program,
20 as executed by the Queen's Care Coalition, was able to reduce
21 the number of unnecessary emergency department visits by thirty-



1 nine per cent, the number of hospitalized days by seventeen
2 per cent, and the amount of ambulance utilization by fifty-three
3 per cent.

4 The legislature further finds that the work of the Queen's
5 Care Coalition resulted in significant cost savings to three
6 major Med-QUEST managed care plans. Analysis on total cost of
7 care pre- and post-Queen's Care Coalition demonstrates an
8 average of thirty-nine per cent reduction in total cost of care.

9 The National Health Care for the Homeless Council
10 recognizes medical respite as a needed service and response to
11 the circumstances faced by people experiencing homelessness.
12 Homeless individuals suffer profound disparities in health and
13 mortality compared to the general population. After an acute
14 care stay, recovery is extremely difficult on the streets and
15 shelters generally are not equipped to support people who are
16 sick or injured.

17 Thus, medical respite care for individuals experiencing
18 homelessness is a critical part of the continuum of care for
19 this population. Through a partnership with the Institute for
20 Human Services, The Queen's Medical Center is able to provide
21 medical respite to homeless patients who have been discharged



1 and may need additional time to heal in a more appropriate level
2 of care setting.

3 The legislature also finds that the emergency department
4 homelessness assessment pilot program merits continuation
5 because it has demonstrated positive results in delivering care
6 coordination services by a multidisciplinary team, thereby
7 mitigating the number of unnecessary emergency department visits
8 by patients experiencing homelessness and patients at risk of
9 experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the legislature finds
10 that the medical respite pilot program merits consideration
11 because it has demonstrated positive results in delivering
12 medical respite services for eligible individuals experiencing
13 homelessness by providing certain services, including meals;
14 case management; and medical, nursing, and psychiatric care.

15 Further, the legislature finds that the department of human
16 services supports the continuation of both programs and is in
17 the process of transitioning the programs from the department's
18 homeless program office to the department's Med-QUEST division.

19 Finally, the legislature intends that no lapse in resources
20 occur for the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot



1 program and medical respite pilot program, as these programs are
2 transitioned to the Med-QUEST division.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Extend the duration of the emergency department
5 homelessness assessment pilot program and the medical
6 respite pilot program to June 30, 2021; and

7 (2) Clarify the lapse date for encumbered resources for
8 the pilot programs that were previously appropriated
9 pursuant to Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

10 SECTION 2. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,
11 section 7, as amended by Act 128, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
12 section 1, is amended as follows:

13 1. By amending subsection (c) to read:

14 "(c) The department of human services shall work with the
15 participating hospital under the emergency department
16 homelessness assessment pilot program to collect and analyze
17 data to be included in a report that contains a summary and
18 explanation of the data regarding the efficacy of emergency
19 department intervention by the multidisciplinary team in
20 mitigating the number of unnecessary emergency department visits
21 by patients experiencing homelessness or patients at risk of



1 experiencing homelessness. The report shall contain findings
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for
3 continuation, modification, or termination of the pilot program.
4 The department of human services shall submit the report to the
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the regular [~~session~~] sessions of 2020[-] and 2021."

7 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

8 "(e) The emergency department homelessness assessment
9 pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30, [~~2020-~~] 2021."

10 SECTION 3. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,
11 section 9, as amended by Act 128, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
12 section 1, is amended as follows:

13 1. By amending subsection (c) to read:

14 "(c) The department of human services shall submit a
15 report to the legislature of its findings and recommendations,
16 including any proposed legislation, regarding the pilot program
17 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
18 [~~session~~] sessions of 2020[-] and 2021."

19 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

20 "(e) The medical respite pilot program shall cease to
21 exist on June 30, [~~2020-~~] 2021."



1 SECTION 4. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By amending section 8 to read:

4 "SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
7 department of human services to establish the emergency
8 department homelessness assessment pilot program; provided that:

9 (1) The department of human services shall reimburse the
10 participating hospital for expenses directly related
11 to the emergency department homelessness assessment
12 pilot program;

13 (2) No funds shall be disbursed to a participating
14 hospital unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis
15 by the participating hospital; and

16 (3) All funds designated as matching funds by the
17 participating hospital shall be funds expended by the
18 participating hospital for the pilot program.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 human services for the purposes of this part~~[7]~~; provided that
21 funds appropriated or authorized by this section that are not



1 expended or encumbered by June 30, 2019, shall lapse as of June
2 30, 2021."

3 2. By amending section 10 to read:

4 "SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
7 department of human services to establish the medical respite
8 pilot program; provided that:

9 (1) The department of human services shall reimburse a
10 participating hospital for expenses directly related
11 to the medical respite pilot program;

12 (2) No funds shall be disbursed to a participating
13 hospital unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis
14 by the participating hospital; and

15 (3) All funds designated as matching funds by the
16 participating hospital shall be funds expended by the
17 participating hospital for the pilot program.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 human services for the purposes of this part~~[-]~~; provided that
20 funds appropriated or authorized by this section that are not



1 expended or encumbered by June 30, 2019, shall lapse as of June
2 30, 2021."

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
6 retroactively to June 29, 2019.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program; Medical Respite Pilot Program

Description:

Extends the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and medical respite pilot program to 06/30/2021. Clarifies the lapse date for encumbered resources for the pilot programs that were previously appropriated pursuant to Act 209, SLH 2018. Effective retroactively to 06/29/2019. (HD2)

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

