



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF HOMELESS PERSONS ON O'AHU.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu ("City") have long had some of the highest rates of homelessness per capita in the nation, in large part due to a lack of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the City Council ("Council") adopted Resolution 13-55, CD1, which requested the Department of Community Services to develop an immediate Action Plan to Address the Public Health and Safety Issues Associated with Concentrations of Homeless Persons in the City and County of Honolulu ("Homeless Action Plan"), which the Department of Community Services presented to the Council via Departmental Communication 279 (2013); and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the City adopted a "Housing First" approach, which finds that the first and primary need of a person experiencing homelessness is to obtain stable housing and that other issues or conditions that may affect the person can and should be addressed once housing is obtained; and

WHEREAS, under the "Housing First" approach, the City also continued to expand its previously limited involvement in addressing the needs of O'ahu's homeless population; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, the City has developed a wide range of housing opportunities, facilities, and supportive programs to address the needs of homeless communities, such as:

- 1) Permanent supportive housing vouchers;
- 2) Landlord engagement;
- 3) The Pūnāwai Hygiene Center and Clinic and the Hale Mauiola Shelter and Navigation Center;
- 4) Transportation support;
- 5) An assertive outreach to severely mentally ill persons;
- 6) Transitional housing for domestic violence survivors;
- 7) Isolation and quarantine facilities;
- 8) Mobile health programs;
- 9) Emergency housing vouchers;
- 10) Rent-to-work housing vouchers;
- 11) Expansion of special needs housing;
- 12) Kauhale housing projects;



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- 13) The Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons program; and
- 14) The Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement program; and

WHEREAS, through the adoption of Resolution 15-56 in 2015, the Council requested an update on the Homeless Action Plan, which the Department of Community Services provided to the Council in its "Coordinated Campaign to End Honolulu Homeless," transmitted via Departmental Communication 395 (2015); and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Community Services provided, through Departmental Communications 616 (2018), 719 (2018), and 763 (2018), additional updates on the Homeless Action Plan in response to a request by the Council via Resolution 18-158, FD1; and

WHEREAS, despite sincere efforts by the Council and the City Administration to ameliorate the City's homelessness problem, homelessness continues to be a pervasive problem on O'ahu, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 O'ahu Homeless Point-in-Time Count ("2020 O'ahu PIT Count") estimated that out of a total of 4,448 homeless persons living on O'ahu, 2,346 individuals were considered to be "unsheltered," while 2,102 individuals were considered to be "sheltered" and staying in emergency, transitional, or safe haven facilities; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 O'ahu Homeless Point-in-Time Count was replaced with a "Sheltered Point-in-Time Count," which showed a significant decrease in the number of people living in homeless shelters compared with previous years, as many shelters were forced to decrease their capacities to comply with social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis from the United Way of the National Capital Area on the Impact of COVID-19 on Homelessness ("United Way analysis"), the COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted the housing and healthcare needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, for example:

- 1) Hawai'i had the highest rate of unemployment in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 2) The current healthcare challenges of those experiencing homelessness have worsened, as access to healthcare becomes more difficult due to COVID-19 protocols and the strain on healthcare resources; and



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- 3) There has been an overwhelming rise in the number of individuals reaching out for resources and support services during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that there is a compelling need for an update on the status of the Administration's Homeless Action Plan, with regard to the actions that have been taken, and plans on actions that will be taken, to address the housing and healthcare needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Honolulu; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is requested to provide a current update on the Homeless Action Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to focus the update on the housing and healthcare needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including, specifically, the identification and acquisition of property to provide housing for households experiencing homelessness; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Community Services, the Director of Planning and Permitting, and the Director of Land Management.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Uliaina
Tony Watson

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 5 2022

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 22-2

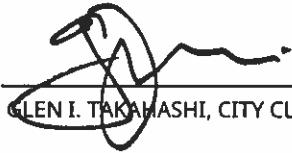
Introduced: 01/05/22 By: TOMMY WATERS
ESTHER KIA'ĀINA Committee: HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY
(HECON)

Title: REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE
NEEDS OF HOMELESS PERSONS ON O'AHU.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

01/05/22	INTRO	Introduced.
01/11/22	HECON	Reported out for adoption.
		CR-2
		4 AYES: CORDERO, KIA'ĀINA, SAY, TULBA
		1 EXCUSED: TUPOLA
01/26/22	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted.
		9 AYES: CORDERO, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KIA'ĀINA, SAY, TSUNEYOSHI, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this
RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER