HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 26-263

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO INITIATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SAFE AND SECURE STORAGE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

WHEREAS, homelessness has been an ongoing public policy challenge in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") that requires a multifaceted approach; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Point in Time Count recorded 4,539 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City and noted that 78 percent of unsheltered individuals reported being homeless for over one year; and

WHEREAS, homeless individuals face many obstacles in their daily lives, including securing employment; accessing food and transportation; locating shelter; and finding a safe and secure place to store belongings; and

WHEREAS, for homeless individuals, continuously carrying all of their belongings is often the only option to safeguard those belongings; and

WHEREAS, carrying all of one's belongings can exacerbate obstacles faced by many homeless individuals, including finding permanent housing, traveling to work or appointments, staying in shelters or short-term housing, and seeking other supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the availability of a no-cost, safe, and secure place to store one's belongings would allow homeless individuals to access services, which could lead to physical, social, or financial mobility by removing a key impediment of constantly securing their personal belongings from theft or loss; and

WHEREAS, at least 18 other cities in the United States, including Los Angeles, California; Seattle, Washington; San Diego, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chicago, Illinois; Denver, Colorado; and Austin, Texas, have enacted safe and secure storage programs for homeless individuals that could serve as models for a similar City program; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that a program that provides safe and secure storage facilities for homeless individuals could also serve as a starting point to build relationships and trust with individuals experiencing homelessness, and lead to the provision of other supportive services for those individuals; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to work with community organizations and the State of Hawai'i to initiate a pilot program to provide safe and secure storage facilities for individuals 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 Homeless Solutions, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance, the Governor, and the Administrator of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 9 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Homelessness; Safe Storage Facilities; Department of Community Services ("DCS"); Department of Facility Maintenance ("DFM"); State of Hawai'i; State of Hawaii; Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions

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