



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE URBAN REST STOP PROGRAM AND LOCAL HYGIENE SERVICE PROVIDERS, TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING HYGIENE CENTERS IN THE MAPUNAPUNA AREA FOR HOMELESS PERSONS AND UNDERTAKING A PILOT PROGRAM TO OPERATE SUCH A CENTER.

WHEREAS, the homeless population in the Mapunapuna area is in need of accessible services and facilities for their basic hygiene needs; and

WHEREAS, the lack of public restrooms may cause homeless persons to resort to the inappropriate use of public places to take care of their bodily needs, resulting in public health and hygiene issues; and

WHEREAS, further, the lack of shower and laundry facilities can be a barrier for a homeless person seeking or attempting to maintain employment; and

WHEREAS, hygiene center programs specifically designed for homeless persons have been established in certain cities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in Seattle, Washington, a program entitled the Urban Rest Stop provides free toilet, shower, and laundry facilities for homeless men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Rest Stop is open seven days a week and has extended hours to assist homeless persons who are working or are seeking employment; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Rest Stop is operated by a nonprofit organization and is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the city of Seattle, and private donations; and

WHEREAS, providing homeless persons with access to essential hygiene services through the establishment of hygiene centers would improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and address city public health issues; and

WHEREAS, locally the following two programs offer certain, limited hygiene services for the homeless:

1. Project D.A.T.E., established in 2008 by Pastor Raymond Black, III, of the Living the Word Ministries, currently serves the homeless population in the



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Mapunapuna area by providing hot meals four times a week, a food bank for groceries and toiletries once a week, mail service available during meal hours, and, through partnerships with other agencies and non-profits, job assistance, housing assistance, bus passes, ID replacement, medical services and vision screening, either on-site or via referral; and

2. Mental Health Kokua, a non-profit organization serving the homeless, has managed the City's hygiene center in the Chinatown area since February 2, 2015 and provides restrooms and showers to homeless individuals and families during certain, limited hours;

and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that an initiative similar to the city of Seattle's Urban Rest Stop program that would build on the gains made by the City's initial Chinatown hygiene center would address immediate public health and hygiene concerns, complement the City's Chinatown hygiene center and Housing First program, and would also complement the services currently provided by Project D.A.T.E. and Mental Health Kokua, is critically needed in the Mapunapuna area; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City administration is requested to consult with the Urban Rest Stop program in Seattle and local hygiene service providers, and further investigate and report to the Council on the feasibility of establishing one or more hygiene centers, in close proximity to Project D.A.T.E. or elsewhere in the Mapunapuna area (the area spanning from Sand Island to Pearl Harbor and bounded to the south by Nimitz Highway), for homeless persons and of undertaking a pilot program to operate such a center or centers in collaboration with the State and homeless service providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scope of the City administration's report should include, but not be limited to, the viability of providing city funding or city-owned property, and of requesting state funding or state-owned property, in the Mapunapuna area, for the establishment of hygiene centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that community input on specific location options shall be sought prior to the establishment of any hygiene center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City administration is requested to transmit its report to the Council no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Resolution; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 16 2015

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers