



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER THE USE OF AMBU-BUSES TO PROVIDE MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS.

WHEREAS, the 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count reported 4,903 homeless individuals in the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), a 4% increase over 2014; and

WHEREAS, many homeless individuals suffer from significant health challenges and have higher rates of hypertension, cardiac failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, infections, diabetes and arthritis than the general population; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the prevalence of tuberculosis is at least 46 times greater in the U.S. homeless population than in the general U.S. population and the prevalence of hepatitis C viral infection is approximately four times greater; and

WHEREAS, a study of the health care needs of the homeless in the City found that 42% of homeless individuals rated their health as fair to poor, compared to 13% of the general population, and were five times more likely to be admitted to acute care hospitals; and

WHEREAS, studies have also shown that homeless individuals are more likely to use ambulance services than are members of the general population and a former Director of the Department of Emergency Services ("Emergency Services") indicated that approximately a third of the City's top 50 chronic 911 callers are homeless; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of ambulance responses and emergency room visits for the homeless are for chronic health issues that would have been better suited for treatment in a non-urgent health care facility; and

WHEREAS, the misuse of ambulance and emergency room services results in significant costs, as the reported charges for an ambulance transfer and a visit to the emergency room are approximately \$800 each; and

WHEREAS, scarce ambulance and emergency room resources being tied up with non-urgent care cases may delay critical care for people who are suffering true health care emergencies; and

WHEREAS, homeless individuals would greatly benefit from accessible health care for acute and chronic health problems, preventive services, health counseling, vaccines, and testing and treatment for diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis; and



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WHEREAS, in March of 2015, the City unveiled its first ambu-bus, a bus retrofitted and equipped to transport up to 24 patients as well as a crew of at least one paramedic and one emergency technician during a disaster; and

WHEREAS, the ambu-bus is based at the Emergency Services station in Kalaeloa and may be available for other uses when not required for disaster response; and

WHEREAS, grant funding may be available to the City to retrofit additional buses to expand the fleet of ambu-buses; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that providing mobile health services to the homeless using ambu-buses could significantly improve the health care of the City's homeless and reduce the number of costly and unnecessary ambulance transfers and emergency room visits; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City administration is requested to consider the use of ambu-buses to provide mobile health services to the homeless; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Emergency Services, and the Director of Community Services.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HI
OCT 9 2015

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 9 2015
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 15-282

Introduced: 10/09/15 By: JOEY MANAHAN

Committee: PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY
AND WELFARE

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER THE USE OF AMBU-BUSES
TO PROVIDE MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS.

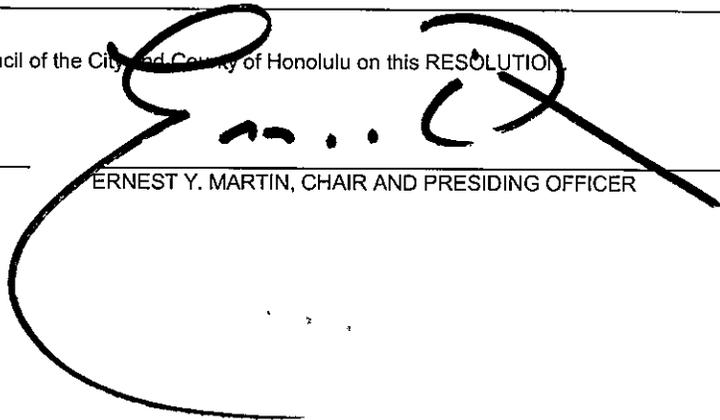
Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

10/20/15	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE	CR-386 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.
11/04/15	COUNCIL	CR-386 AND RESOLUTION 15-282 WERE ADOPTED. 8 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, OZAWA. 1 ABSENT: PINE.

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



ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER