



## RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ESTABLISH A HOMELESS TASK FORCE WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING AND BETTER COORDINATING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATING TO UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENTS.

WHEREAS, homelessness in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") continues to be a pervasive problem; and

WHEREAS, the Point-in-Time Count conducted in January 2016 estimated that there were a total of 4,940 homeless persons living on Oahu, with 2,173 of those individuals classified as unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,090 individuals living on Oahu meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of "chronically homeless"; and

WHEREAS, unsheltered individuals, many of them chronically homeless, have formed unlawful encampments on public lands, including parks, sidewalks, and areas located underneath highways; and

WHEREAS, encampments have rendered these areas unsanitary and unsafe both for unsheltered inhabitants and for the general public; and

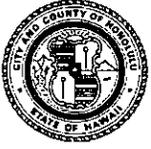
WHEREAS, the City regularly undertakes cleanups of encampments under the City's Stored Property and Sidewalk Nuisance Ordinances in order to make sidewalks and other public places accessible to all; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has undertaken cleanup efforts of its own, including several clearances of encampments on State property located under the H-1 Freeway and the March 2017 clearance of encampments on the slopes of Diamond Head State Monument; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and City Administration have collaborated on past cleanup and enforcement efforts relating to unlawful encampments; and

WHEREAS, unsheltered individuals have formed encampments on public lands where jurisdictional complications have impeded enforcement actions and then have reoccupied those lands following encampment clearance efforts; and

WHEREAS, better coordination between City and State officials would help to overcome these complications; and



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WHEREAS, the existing bodies that promote intergovernmental and cross-sectoral coordination on issues of homelessness, among them the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, Partners in Care, and the Hawaii State Legislature's Housing and Homeless Task Force, are primarily focused on providing housing and other services to the homeless, and there remains a need for City-State collaboration to address enforcement actions on public lands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests City and State officials to work collaboratively to establish a homeless task force with the goal of improving and better coordinating enforcement activities relating to unlawful encampments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to investigate means by which City and State laws can be enforced so that unsheltered individuals are prevented from occupying public lands and reoccupying those lands after encampment clearance efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor or Managing Director is requested to invite individuals to serve on the task force who represent, at a minimum, the following government agencies:

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness;

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety, Sheriff Division;

The Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division;

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Parks Division;

The Honolulu Police Department;

The Department of Community Services; and

The Department of Facility Maintenance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to include mental health, medical, and homeless outreach professionals to ensure that enforcement officials are able to assess the needs of unsheltered individuals and are aware of and able to connect them with available shelters and appropriate services; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to provide a status report to the Council on the task force's progress no later than 90 days after the adoption of this resolution and an annual report on concrete strategies developed by the task force no later than December 31, 2017, and no later than December 31 of each year thereafter that the task force is in existence; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the Police Chief, the Director of the Department of Community Services, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance, the Mayor, and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

*[Handwritten signature]*

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**MAY 17 2017**

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers