

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2013**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 105, SESSION
LAWS OF HAWAII 2012**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

DECEMBER 2012

REPORT ON ACT 105, SECTION 2, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII (SLH) 2012, RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (HICH).

I. HICH Plan to End Homelessness.

Act 105 of the Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH 2012) created the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to provide solutions to end homelessness, to highlight the importance of ending homelessness across the state, and to strengthen the continuity of efforts to end homelessness across future State of Hawaii administrations. (Section 1, Act 105.)

Act 105, Section 2, sub-part 9, SLH 2012, requires the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). . . “to report annually to the governor, the legislature, and the mayor of each county on the progress of its activities, including formulation and progress of the ten year plan no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.”

The HICH is chaired by Colin Kippen, who has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness. The HICH is administratively housed within the Department of Human Services. The HICH held its first official meeting on September 10, 2012 and again on December 13, 2012. A quorum was established for each meeting and the work of the HICH was begun.

The HICH adopted a plan to end homelessness consisting of four goals, eleven objectives, and 39 strategies. That plan is consistent with the approach taken by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) created by President Obama in 2010 to end homelessness in the United States. Hawaii was the first state in the Union to create a state interagency council patterned after the USICH. The work of the HICH has been informed by its members, by knowledgeable volunteers, service providers, and community members, and by best practices to address homelessness in Hawaii and across the United States.

The goals, objectives, and strategies adopted by the HICH are attached to this report as appendix number 1. The HICH plan is consistent with the plan established by the USICH and the federal government to end homelessness. The action steps to be accomplished over the next two years, including the timelines and measures necessary to gauge performance of this effort in ending homelessness, are now in the process of being formulated. It is expected that this planning work will take approximately 3 to 4 months to complete. The HICH chair is being temporarily assisted by a facilitator-consultant who is being funded under a grant received from the Hawaii Community Foundation.

II. HICH Report and Recommendation on Evening-Only Homeless Encampments on Public Property.

The HICH and the Department of Human Services were mandated to undertake a study on the advisability of creating evening-only encampments on public property and to report these findings to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the start of the 2013 legislative session. (Act 105, Section 4, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2012).

On December 13, 2012, the HICH, which included the participation of the Director of Human Resources, unanimously found that . . .”creating camping areas for homeless individuals in our parks and in our public buildings during evenings only, as specified under the terms of Act 105, Section 4 is unworkable, is not advisable, and should not be pursued.”

The report of the HICH as regards evening-only homeless encampments is attached as appendix number 2 to this report.

III. Conclusion.

The HICH has been created to assure that a broad interagency, interdisciplinary and community-based approach is brought to bear to reduce and end homelessness in Hawaii. The HICH has formally met, has adopted a plan, and has set an ambitious schedule to organize its work over the next two years. The HICH believes that ending homelessness in Hawaii will require concerted and collaborative action by federal, state, and local governments, the private sector, the general public, informed and knowledgeable service providers, and faith-based organizations.