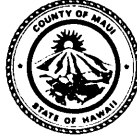


Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

May 1, 2020

Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

RECEIVED

2020 MAY -1 AM 10: 53

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Alice L. Lee
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee:

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR HOMELESS SERVICES**
(PAF 20-134)

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING COUNCILMEMBERS TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR HOMELESS SERVICES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly T. King".

KELLY TAKAYA KING
Councilmember

paf:ans:20-134c

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-258

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING COUNCILMEMBERS TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR HOMELESS SERVICES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the County of Maui is experiencing an unprecedented challenge in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, which was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency for the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor David Y. Ige issued an Emergency Proclamation for the State of Hawaii, and Mayor Michael P. Victorino issued a Public Health Emergency Proclamation for the County of Maui, due to COVID-19, with both officials subsequently issuing numerous further emergency orders; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, stay-at-home orders for the State of Hawaii and the County of Maui went into effect, requiring all persons to stay in their place of residence or lodging, with the exception of conducting certain essential activities; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is affecting the social, economic, physical, and emotional components of daily life for all Maui residents, and those who are experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable given their already precarious living conditions, including a lack of access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and basic supplies; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of people experiencing homelessness also have underlying chronic health conditions that increase the risks of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, many of the preventative guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control, as well as state and local health authorities,

Resolution No. _____

are difficult or impractical for unsheltered persons to implement, including maintaining social distancing; washing hands frequently; and having a 14-day supply of groceries, medications, and household supplies; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, community groups, and nonprofit organizations serving the homeless are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic: distributing food, water, and other vital resources to those with no permanent housing; delivering basic hygiene products and mobile facilities to those with limited access to bathrooms and showers; and dispensing first aid to help keep minor health issues from becoming emergency room visits or otherwise straining our healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are providing a dignified, compassionate response to hundreds of unsheltered people every day – helping them maintain reasonable health and resiliency during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, *The Maui News* reported that Maui Rapid Response, a collective of homeless outreach groups, served 2,250 people in the prior week, up from 1,400 people only three weeks prior; and

WHEREAS, the number of people requiring urgent services and intervention to address and prevent homelessness is likely to increase in the coming months due to the economic impact of COVID-19; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it acknowledges the heightened impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons and families experiencing homelessness and the critical need to expand the capacity of organizations to safely and effectively reach this vulnerable and growing population;
2. That it, therefore, urges the Mayor to provide emergency funding in an expedited manner to those organizations providing urgent homeless services during this pandemic;
3. That, as an emergency measure, it further authorizes individual Councilmembers to expend legislative funds from their office accounts to support organizations providing

Resolution No. _____

homeless services in response to COVID-19 through the end of Fiscal Year 2020, if emergency proclamations remain in effect for the State of Hawaii and County of Maui; and

4. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; Ms. Lori Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui; and Ms. Traci Fujita, Esq., Director, Office of Council Services, County of Maui.

paf:ans:20-134b