

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 11, 2020

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2469, SD2 Relating to Human Services

I support SB 2469, SD2 as well as any other initiative that can have a positive impact on the homeless population, make their lives a bit easier, and move them toward conventional shelter.

As a neighbor island Mayor, I appreciate the Legislature's recognition that homelessness is a statewide problem. A year ago, when testifying on HB 36 and SB 526, I noted that the bills called for two mobile clinics, and that I hoped that one of the two could be earmarked for an ohana zone project on an island other than O'ahu. (It was my understanding that the Executive Committee of the Community Alliance Partners (CAP) was endorsing those bills while making a similar request.) I now cannot help but notice that SB 2469, SD2 specifies that one of the mobile clinics would have to be assigned to Hawai'i County. I thank the sponsors for this recognition of our efforts in dealing with the homeless, and I certainly believe that our geography, and our number of homeless, justify such a designation, but I also would understand if your Committee defers to DHS to pick the neighbor island that could most benefit from having such a clinic.

In any event, I ask for a favorable vote on SB 2469, SD2.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR