

Together we can resolve problem of homelessness in Honolulu

By Kirk Caldwell

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Jun 1, 2014

It's time to declare a war on homelessness, which is evolving into a crisis in Honolulu.

We cannot let homelessness ruin our economy and take over our city.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness' 2014 report, Hawaii is listed as the No 2 state with an increase in homelessness per capita.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2014 assessment, Honolulu is ranked No. 1 in the number of homeless people among comparable-sized cities.

Here is what the city has been doing, and some new proposals for action over the next three months.



*Kirk Caldwell
is the mayor
of Honolulu.*

» Public safety is always our first priority.

A dedicated city team picks up three to 11 tons of items from sidewalks and parks on a weekly cycle. The city spends \$500,000 per year on these enforcement action teams. They remove items that block passage and make public areas unsafe and unhealthy.

When we conduct these enforcements, we make sure that service providers have counseled any affected homeless individual on how to get help and go into a shelter.

Some say they can't see a difference, but imagine the tons of dirty bedding, tents and trash piling up every week if the city stopped this enforcement.

» The city is partnering with the Waikiki hotel and resort industry to get more restrooms opened around the clock, and to work with their hotel security staff to help clear the sidewalks and public areas.

The city also has proposed an increase in the hotel and resort property tax (50 cents per \$1,000 valuation) that is expected to raise \$4 million dedicated for homeless initiatives in Waikiki.

For example, we recently opened a new food kiosk under the trellises at Waikiki Beach, an area that had been taken over by homeless. It is now clean and clear for visitors and residents to enjoy once again.

However, we won't be able to continue projects such as this or the frequent sidewalk nuisance enforcement in Waikiki without a dedicated source of funding.

» My administration will introduce two new bills, one prohibiting sitting or lying on a public sidewalk, with certain exceptions, and the other prohibiting public urination or defecation.

Both give the police the authority, which they do not have now, to arrest or move people along, or who are using our public places as bathrooms. We will introduce this in Waikiki first, and if successful, will add other areas of Oahu.

Appendix E1

»The city has researched and has selected a new design for public bathrooms that will be easier to keep clean and hold up to heavy use, and unfortunately abuse, and we have the funds to install a new bathroom in three key locations in Chinatown.

We are also considering a mobile hygiene center that would include bathrooms.

» Within the fiscal year 2015 budget, my administration proposes \$3 million in rental vouchers and support programs that can be used in the next three months.

This means that 110 chronically homeless will be placed in permanent housing.

We urge Realtors and property owners to contact the city if they have properties that may work as Housing First rental units.

We have budgeted \$19 million for long-term affordable housing projects for homeless individuals and families whose income is less than 50 percent of the average median income.

Housing First is a nationally recognized best practice that is proven to reduce the number of chronic homeless. It is pointless to keep shuffling the homeless from one place to another if they don't have a place to go.

We can better manage our homeless challenge in a humane and effective way, but it requires everyone's efforts, and it requires taking action now.

Many people ask me, "Mayor, what are you doing to address homelessness?" And within my response I ask if they can do something, too.

Together, let's fight the battle to end life on the street for thousands of homeless individuals and families, and make life better for all of us.

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Low-income families living in Honolulu homeless encampment

By Cathy Bussewitz
Associated Press

POSTED: 6:29 p.m. HST, Aug 17, 2015

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More than 40 percent of the people in a homeless encampment in Honolulu's Kakaako district are families, according to a new survey released by Gov. David Ige on Monday.

The study was conducted in early August and found that about 300 people are living in tents and makeshift structures in Kakaako, and the vast majority said they would be willing to go to shelters.

But many face barriers to obtaining secure housing, including more than a third of the population who said they don't have identification documents such as birth certificates.

The data gathered by service providers is intended to help the governor's homelessness team outline the next steps for making a dent in Hawaii's growing homelessness problem.

"We do know there is virtually zero shelter space for families today," Ige said. "We've gone and we've contacted all of the providers, and essentially all of the families' spaces are taken up ... so that's why looking for properties and sites that can accommodate families, or that we can renovate to accommodate families, is a priority."

At the Next Step shelter in Kakaako, families can wait for a month or two before space opens up in that shelter, said Jason Espero of Waikiki Health, one of the organizations that conducted the study.

Coming up with the cash to pay shelter fees can also be a challenge. The average income level for families living in the encampment is just \$587 per month, and individuals are bringing in an average of around \$320 a month, the survey found.

"This is really not enough money to be able to sustain somebody in a household in Hawaii at this time, so that's part of the reason for their homeless situation," said Greg Payton, chairman of Partners in Care, a coalition of nonprofit organizations that work to end homelessness.

The majority of the income is from government assistance programs, Espero said, while income earned by many residents comes from jobs. "Some of those who are working are cash under the table, or just very underemployed, working less than 20 hours a week, so that's why their monthly income is so low," he said.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority has offered up a storage shed in Kakaako that could be converted into a family shelter to house 40 people, but the site needs environmental testing before renovations could begin, Ige said.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell said a site on Sand Island that could house about 85 people is on track to be completed before Christmas, although that site would not initially allow children.

The majority of residents of the encampment are Native Hawaiian and Polynesian, Espero said. About a

Appendix E2

third are from Pacific island nations that are part of the Compact of Free Association, which allows citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau to live and work freely in the United States in exchange for allowing the U.S. military to control strategic land and water areas in the region, the survey found.

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Council trumps mayor's veto of expanded 'sit-lie' legislation

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Sep 3, 2015

For the second time in recent months, the Honolulu City Council voted Wednesday to override Mayor Kirk Caldwell's veto of a bill that expands Oahu's "sit-lie" ban — this time to two Chinatown pedestrian malls.

Bill 44, introduced by Councilwoman Carol Fukunaga, extends sit-lie enforcement to College Walk Mall and Kila Kalikimaka Mall, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The bill also extends the hours the sit-lie ban would be enforced at downtown's Fort Street Mall, to 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and Union Mall, to 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Council members said the additional ban is necessary to protect businesses in the malls where homeless campers have retrenched after the city outlawed sitting and lying along the sidewalks in downtown Honolulu, Chinatown and elsewhere during the past year.

Judy Lind, executive director of the Kukui Children's Foundation at Kukui and Aala streets, testified Wednesday that building occupants are being hindered by people who sit and lie in the two malls.

"We really need the same safeguards ... that you have given other businesses," she said. "Since sit-lie, we've had terrible things happen on our property and we have offices on our property that serve children seven days a week and in the evening."

Caldwell cited constitutional concerns when he vetoed Bill 44 last month. City attorneys have said repeatedly that sit-lie bills are best able to fend off constitutional challenges when access to businesses is being hindered by people sitting or lying on sidewalks.

City Managing Director Roy Amemiya reiterated those concerns Wednesday.

The veto and override were replays of the actions taken by Caldwell and the Council, respectively, on Bill 6 earlier this year. That bill also expanded the sit-lie ban to new areas, particularly areas across the street from the borders of existing zones, as well as several new areas including Kapalama Canal, Aala and McCully.

Council members Brandon Elefante and Kymberly Pine voted against the override. The two have consistently opposed sit-lie legislation, arguing that it serves only to criminalize homelessness and push the homeless into other neighborhoods.

Despite Wednesday's predictable outcome, Council members seized the chance to press Amemiya on whether the administration intends to enforce the two bills, and why the city has not been able to provide more shelter for the homeless despite being given \$140 million by the Council the last two years to do that.

Late Wednesday, the Honolulu Police Department issued a statement saying its leaders are meeting with city attorneys "for legal guidance on enforcement in the expanded areas defined in Bill 6, and will do the same for the new bill passed today."

HPD said that for the week of Aug. 23, officers issued 246 sit-lie warnings and 10 citations.

Next step for isle's homeless

With the cleanup of Kakaako completed, the city shifts its focus to securing housing

By Dan Nakaso

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Oct 17, 2015

LAST UPDATED: 1:40 a.m. HST, Oct 17, 2015

Following this week's successful cleanup of the Kakaako homeless encampment, city and state officials are embarking on a new approach to getting people off the streets of an island state with the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the country.

City crews installed the first two shipping containers Friday for what will be a first-of-its-kind temporary homeless shelter on an acre of state-owned land on Sand Island.

By the end of the year, the 25-container Hale Mauiola project is expected to house 80 to 90 adults and pets, which are not allowed in traditional shelters and serve as one reason homeless pet owners remain on the streets.

Also Friday, Gov. David Ige reconvened his Governor's Leadership Team on Homelessness and announced a series of new initiatives, including an emergency proclamation that both extends and expands the efforts of social service providers while putting them on notice that their performance is being evaluated.

Following the cleanup of the Kakaako encampment this week, Ige said at a Capitol press conference, "We have come to the end of what we can do with our existing contracts" with social service agencies.

Scott Morishige, Hawaii's homeless coordinator, said \$1.3 million has been identified to expand social service outreach for another year while the state begins reviewing its existing contracts and the performances of social service agencies.

Ige's office said that the \$1.3 million also will help fund a new transitional homeless facility and "will serve an additional 1,000 homeless individuals between now and July 31."

"There's still much work to do," Morishige said. "Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness per capita among the 50 states, with an estimated 465 homeless individuals per 100,000. The alarming increase in unsheltered individuals and families over the past two years is particularly significant on Oahu."

The last "point in time count" conducted in January found that 4,900 people were homeless on Oahu.

In addition, Ige on Friday announced a partnership with the Hawaii Association of Realtors that he hopes will result in more private landlords renting fair-market-value apartments to homeless people using a concept called "Housing First."

A summit will be held with Hawaii landlords sometime before the end of the year to encourage them to accept homeless people with housing vouchers.

The summit will include information about the protections landlords will receive, along with incentives for

Appendix E4

renting to people who might have drug or alcohol addictions and even mental health problems.

The outreach to private landlords follows successful government-backed efforts in cities such as Seattle and Salt Lake City that have proved it's cheaper and more effective to put homeless people into homes before addressing their addictions and other issues.

"There's a lot of misinformation, a lot of misunderstanding," Morishige said.

Ige said the cleanup of the Kakaako encampment bolstered "best practices" ideas among city and state officials now setting their sights on homeless populations in Waianae, Waipahu and Waimanalo.

Over the course of the Kakaako sweep that began Sept. 8, more than half of the 293 people who were counted during an August census — or 158 people including 25 families — ended up in homeless shelters or permanent housing, Ige said.

The census was part of a "data-driven process" that Ige now plans to apply to Waianae, Waipahu and Waimanalo.

The Kakaako cleanup worked because of cooperation among city, state and federal officials, social service providers and private landowners throughout Kakaako, Ige said.

Standing by Ige's side Friday was the city's managing director, Roy Amemiya, who called the Kakaako cleanup "just the first step in this statewide crisis."

Morishige said the execution of the Kakaako cleanup represents "a model we hope to replicate ... across every county in the state."

The August census also found that 20 percent of the Kakaako occupants were Micronesian migrants here under the Compact of Free Association resulting from U.S. atomic testing on their islands.

Ige said he has met with officials in the Marshall Islands and throughout the Federated States of Micronesia to see whether they can better inform COFA migrants about the realities of life in Hawaii so they don't end up homeless.

While some 54 percent of the Kakaako homeless moved into shelters or other housing, Ige acknowledged that many remain on the streets.

"We do know some of them have moved into other parks in Kakaako," Ige said.

He called Hawaii's homeless situation "a crisis."

The state continues to consider four possible sites for future homeless housing projects: on Office of Hawaiian Affairs land across from the Next Step shelter in Kakaako; at Liliha Civic Center; on Nimitz Highway at Pier 38; and at a maintenance shed in Kakaako owned by the Hawaii Community Development Association.

At the same time, the city has asked social service providers to submit proposals on what kind of homeless housing projects they would run if the city buys a three-story building on Kuwili Street.

In its "Request for Information," the city solicited proposals "to develop new projects and plans of action to address homelessness."

The city also continues to be interested in replicating two popular programs in San Francisco that do not take anyone off of the streets, but do rid sidewalks of urine, feces and needles.

One project operated by a nonprofit group called Lava Mae takes old San Francisco “Muni” buses and converts them into portable showers and toilets for homeless people.

The other, called the “San Francisco Pit Stop,” tows pairs of flushable toilets and sinks into tourist and homeless centers. The Pit Stops are staffed by employees, who are often homeless themselves, who clean up after each use and knock on the door after five minutes to ensure that nothing inappropriate is going on inside.

The employees have proved key to the success of the Pit Stop in San Francisco. The program has encouraged use by tourists and women, in particular, according to officials in San Francisco.

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Advocates decry homeless sweeps

Officials say cleanups are necessary, but critics say they ignore the core problems

By Associated Press

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Jun 13, 2015

Hours after a Honolulu city crew cleared a homeless encampment from the banks of Kapalama Canal, the people who had been living there in tents and other makeshift structures streamed right back in.

There was no place else for them to go on an island where the cost of living is through the roof and there are limited services to help them get back on their feet.

Honolulu has some shelter and housing programs in place, and helped house or financially support more than 1,400 people this year.

But there are long waits for services and a shortage of low-income housing for the homeless population that the National Alliance to End Homelessness said was second per capita in the nation last year after Washington, D.C.

Unlike expensive real estate markets on the mainland, in Hawaii there are only so many places people can move, and clearing encampments isn't helping, said Jenny Lee, staff attorney for Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice.

"We have excessive demand for all levels of housing, but it's the most acute for people at the low end," Lee said

The city has set aside at least \$16.8 million for services and to secure apartments for homeless people in 2015, including plans to develop a facility on Sand Island to temporarily house transients in units made from shipping containers.

City officials also are backing \$32 million in bonds to finance other housing for homeless people.

Meanwhile, complaints from tourists and residents have prompted the city to ban sitting and lying down on sidewalks in Wai-kiki. The prohibition has been expanded to some neighborhoods in recent months.

Honolulu spends \$15,000 a week on the crews that head out daily to clean up tent cities that emerge around Oahu. Workers toss out four to eight tons of junk and garbage — from mattresses and bicycle parts to needles and human waste — every week, said Jesse Broder Van Dyke, spokes-man for Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

"Can you imagine what the city would look like if we weren't doing that?" Broder Van Dyke said. "It's a health and safety issue. It's something that just has to be done. We wish that it wasn't necessary."

Some see the exercise as futile because the campers generally return.

"If you think about \$15,000, that could pay for a family to live for a year," Lee said. "It's very hard to justify the amount spent clearing people out when they know people will come back in about **Appendix E5**

During the recent canal sweep, many homeless people waited it out on side streets in the industrial area near downtown Hono-lulu, their shopping carts weighed down by rugs and sleeping materials while children played near strollers stuffed with clothes and other belongings.

"Sometimes we can't carry it all, so things get thrown out," said Stefanie Sanchez, who lives along the banks of the Kapalama Canal with her 5-year-old daughter.

Sanchez said she's on a waiting list to get into Hono-lulu's Housing First program, which provides homes to chronically homeless individuals and families.

Hawaii is not alone in grappling with what to do about such tent cities.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty says people have been living in tent cities or smaller encampments in at least 41 of 50 states. In many cases, residents of the encampments were evicted.

Eric Tars, senior attorney for the group, said that for one of the richest countries in the world, "The fact that we have tent cities shouldn't be something that's acceptable. We can and we should do better."

In Waikiki the city enforces a sidewalk ordinance, which requires no notice for a sweep. Officials will take virtually all items to storage, and with the exception of wallets and critical documents, the owner has to pay a \$200 fee to retrieve them.

San Jose, Calif., where city officials cleared 200 people last year from an encampment known as "The Jungle," spends about \$3.5 million a year dealing with its encampments.

More than half of that amount goes to housing and services for the people living in the encampments, with the rest directed to cleanup and prevention efforts, including watershed protection teams and rangers to deter campers from returning.

"Encampments have impacts on the people who are living in them and their health and safety, but they also have an impact on the environment and they have an impact on the safety and well-being on the surrounding community," said Ray Bramson, a San Jose city official.

Some sweeps leave homeless people further from getting back on their feet, especially when criminal citations or fines occur, Tars said.

"We know there have been people who are saving up for first month and last month, and all of a sudden they're swept up to jail and they have to pay fines," Tars said. "If the goal is to permanently eliminate these encampments, any kind of criminalizing approaches aren't beneficial, because they end up putting up more barriers."

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Tents of homeless removed from Kapalama Canal bank

Families living in the area struggle to find a suitable space to set up new living quarters

By Associated Press

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Jun 10, 2015

Homeless families in Hono--lulu are figuring out where to go after the city swept the banks of a canal where they were living in tents.

Crews cleaned up the area along the Kapa-lama Canal on Tuesday. The cleanup came less than a week after the City Council finalized a ban on sitting and lying down in the area.

But the cleanup was enforcing a stored-property ordinance, not the sit-lie ban, said Jesse Broder Van Dyke, spokes-man for Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

Single mom Stefanie Sanchez, who was living in a tent by the canal with her 5-year-old daughter, waited with their friends and belongings on a side street. They planned to move right back to the canal bank after the cleanup was complete.

"There's a lot of community here, as well as a feeling that we're home. We know what to expect here," Sanchez said. "We're just sort of hoping, praying for the best."

Under the stored-property ordinance, crews are required to give 24 hours' notice so people can remove their belongings.

The city spends \$15,000 a week for crews to perform similar sweeps throughout the island, Broder Van Dyke said.

"Usually people will return after they're gone," Broder Van Dyke said. "If they enforced it every single day, it would probably be more effective, but right now we're spending \$15,000 a week on it; and the crew has to get to all over the island, so they end up getting to Kapa-lama about once a month."

To enforce the ordinance, a crew from the city Department of Facility Maintenance goes out five days a week to locations from Hawaii Kai to Wai-anae, and Chinatown to the North Shore. Workers remove, on average, four to eight tons of garbage per week, not including the personal property items they store for later retrieval, Broder Van Dyke said.

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Arrivals from mainland add to demand for local services

By Dan Nakaso

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, Oct 18, 2015

LAST UPDATED: 2:18 a.m. HST, Oct 18, 2015

Robert Wade’s wife told him to get out of her life for good and bought him a one-way ticket from Tampa, Fla., to Honolulu, where Wade landed on Sept. 30 with no job, no home, no friends, no family and no plan.

After four increasingly desperate calls for help to 911 and five nights sleeping on the grounds of the state Capitol, state library and in a hospital bed at the Queen’s Medical Center, Wade on Oct. 5 found his way to Hawaii’s largest homeless shelter, the Institute for Human Services in Iwilei.

Since July 1, IHS has housed 104 mainland homeless people just like Wade.

The number is on pace to far surpass the 216 newly arrived mainland homeless people IHS took in for all of fiscal 2015, which ended June 30.

Wade, 58, has some advice for other people struggling on the mainland who wonder whether they’d be better off being homeless in Hawaii:



What is the point of sheltering them when there are local families who have been living in Kakaako for six, seven years? This is for locals who need shelter. But we do not discriminate."

Kimo Carvalho
Institute for Human Services spokesman

“If you think this is paradise, it’s not,” Wade said. “Paradise is having a nice home and a family. Don’t go anywhere if you’re homeless and don’t have a plan.”

As the administrations of Gov. David Ige and Mayor Kirk Caldwell continue to search for new ways to address the estimated 4,900 people who are homeless on Oahu, IHS continues to receive emails, phone calls, tweets and Facebook messages from homeless people on the mainland who are considering coming to Hawaii with no housing and no idea how much it actually costs to live here.



DAN NAKASO / STARADVE

Robert Wade, 58, got a one-way ticket from Florida to Honolulu with no plan or job and now has no money. He’s been staying at the

“We do our best to discourage them,” said IHS spokesman Kimo Carvalho.

But when they do end up at IHS, the two most common reasons newly arrived homeless people cite on their paperwork for coming to Hawaii are “change of scenery” and “I thought I could make it,” Carvalho said.

Contrary to “urban myth,” Carvalho said, there is no evidence that states or municipalities are clearing their streets by sending their homeless to Hawaii.

“No client has ever stated their home state sent them to Hawaii,” he said.

But the influx of newly arriving homeless people from the mainland is undeniable.

Just before Wade checked into IHS’ men’s shelter, a couple from Canada dipped into their savings to buy one-way tickets to Honolulu and showed up at IHS’ family shelter with their two children.

“They were not homeless in Canada but had the rent on their apartment run out and they had chopped

Appendix E7

Institute for Human Services in Iwilei, which discourages people from the mainland from showing up with no housing plan. DAN NAKASO / STARADVE Robert Wade explains the numbering system at the Institute for Human Services to get a sleeping mat. Wade sleeps on his mat on the floor of IHS' dining hall, next to a pillar.

on a plane to Hawaii and came straight to our homeless shelter in a cab and said: 'We need shelter. We have no place to go tonight,'" Carvalho said. "They said they felt unsafe in Canada and had heard such great things about Hawaii. But they didn't really think things through. What is the point of sheltering them when there are local families who have been living in Kakaako for six, seven years? This is for locals who need shelter. But we do not discriminate."

Right after the Canadians arrived at IHS' family shelter, another man who had been homeless in Seattle for 30 years appeared at IHS' men's shelter.

"He said Hawaii had been on his bucket list, so he said, 'I'm going to Hawaii,'" Carvalho said.

"He had been running around for three days, getting high, and said he's sober now and wants a free ticket back to Seattle. We said, 'We just don't ship homeless people around the country.' He needs a confirmed plan to end his homelessness before we would send him back."

The Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association has funded a \$30,000 project that since November 2014 has flown 115 Waikiki homeless people back to the mainland, as long as they can show they have a plan to get out of homelessness.

But the program is only intended to help clear Waikiki of homeless people. It does not apply to recent transplants such as Wade, the Canadians and the chronically homeless man from Seattle who don't have someone back home to help them, Carvalho said.

State Rep. John Mizuno (D, Kamehameha Heights- Kalihi Valley) has twice proposed that the state contribute \$100,000 to fly homeless people back to the mainland, but Mizuno's proposals have always died in the Legislature. Mizuno continues to raise money, spend his own cash and use his personal frequent-flier miles to return homeless people to their families back home.

Last year the Watumull Foundation gave IHS a \$10,000 grant to relocate homeless people back to the mainland, and IHS just received a \$15,000 grant from the Pettus Foundation for the same purpose.

But IHS insists that someone on the mainland — even if it's just social service case workers — has to be willing to help a homeless client before it puts that person on a plane.

To further discourage mainland homeless people, IHS charges them four times the amount that single adults from Hawaii pay to stay at IHS.

On Nov. 1, IHS' fee for single adults goes up to \$100 from \$90 a month and the fee for a family rises to \$130 from \$120 a month.

The \$400 monthly rate for mainland homeless people stays the same. The mainland rate was last raised five years ago from \$350.

Last week Wade ran out of the \$80 that his estranged wife gave him just before he boarded his flight to Hawaii at Tampa Airport.

Wade has bad eyesight and hearing problems and is a Type 2 diabetic. Last week he spent his last \$1 on a bag of M&M's at IHS to get his blood sugar up.

For people like him who can't afford the \$400 shelter fee, IHS will waive Wade's expenses if he works 10 hours a week at the shelter, just as IHS will do for anyone who can't pay the shelter fees.

“If you’re here less than a year in Hawaii, we’re going to charge you a mainland fee because you came here without resources,” Carvalho said. “But they’re scared just like any client. Part of the challenge is trying to figure out what to do with people like this who just show up.”

Before he landed in Honolulu, Wade had never been homeless.

He grew up in Huntington Beach, Calif., and bounced around the country doing a variety of jobs. He said he quit his last job as a certified nursing assistant seven months ago in North Carolina when “a deranged patient” attacked him.

But Wade’s life really started falling apart a year ago when his mother died, leaving him with an estranged 16-year-old daughter and wife as his only remaining family.

So Wade moved from North Carolina to Port Charlotte, Fla., to try reconciling.

But his wife eventually gave him an ultimatum: “She said she’d buy me a ticket to anywhere I wanted, but it had to be one-way.”

Wade landed at Honolulu Airport with two cans of trail mix, a backpack full of clothes, a cellphone low on battery power and no way to charge it, and a laptop computer that got broken on the trip.

He quickly got dehydrated and disoriented, wandering strange streets with names he could not pronounce, and ended up at the state library on Punchbowl Street.

Like so-called “chronically homeless” people who use a disproportionate amount of police, ambulance and hospital resources, Wade started calling 911 looking for help.

He ended up at Queen’s two or three times, including a brief stay in the psychiatric ward.

“They said, ‘This is Hawaii. There already is an army of homeless people and we cannot take you in unless you are a danger to other people,’” Wade recalled. “This was emphasized.”

He then took another approach to find shelter and food. While standing on the steps of the library, Wade called 911 yet again to report a fictitious crime he hoped would send him to jail and get him off the street.

“I said, ‘I have spray-painted cars all up and down Punchbowl Avenue. I’ve had an attack of consciousness and I want to be arrested,’” Wade said. “I lied with pride because I felt my life was in danger and I needed help. If I went to prison, I’d have had food, water, a bunk and medical care, which I presently do not have.”

Police did not arrest him and Wade used \$7 of his dwindling \$80 to take a cab to IHS.

Before IHS took him in, Wade said his first days being homeless in Honolulu were “scary.”

“My mental status has been flapping in the breeze the whole time,” he said. “I was lost. I don’t drink, I don’t do drugs, don’t smoke. I’m not crazy, but I am a little eccentric, I guess.”

At IHS, Wade sleeps on a mat by a pillar in the dining hall. He tucks his shoes under the mat to prop up his head like a pillow. He has no blanket or sheets.

A team of University of Hawaii medical students gave him medicine to stabilize his diabetes and has offered to supply him with expensive batteries for his cochlear implant that allows him to hear out of his right ear.

Appendix E7

But after two weeks in Hawaii, Wade now wants to go back to his childhood home in Huntington Beach.

"I want out," he said.

But Wade has neither money for airfare nor "a family to welcome me."

IHS social workers will try to find a group of social workers in Orange County who will watch out for Wade, to get him qualified for a plane ticket back to the mainland.

Until then, IHS' Carvalho called Wade's experience "typical" for newly arrived homeless people from the mainland.

Since the deaths of his parents and the breakup of his family in Florida, Carvalho said, Wade is clearly "experiencing trauma, grief and loss."

While IHS continues to discourage homeless people like Wade from arriving in Hawaii and tapping into public resources, Carvalho said everyone is entitled to help.

"These are real people who are showing up," he said.

SHELTER FEES

The Institute for Human Services is increasing shelter fees for local homeless people and families beginning Nov. 1. The \$400 monthly rate for mainland homeless people remains the same, but is four times as much as what local homeless pay. Fees are waived in exchange for 10 hours of volunteer work per week.

Fee for local clients

SINGLE INDIVIDUAL

	NOW	\$90
	NOV. 1	\$100

FAMILY HOUSEHOLD

	NOW	\$120
	NOV. 1	\$130

Fee for mainland clients

NOW	\$400
NOV. 1	\$400

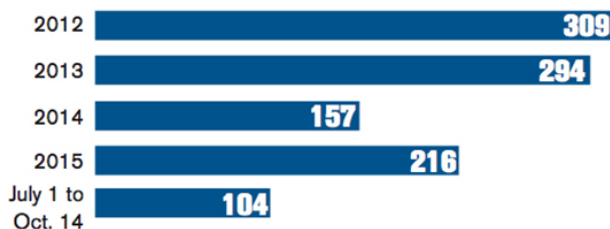
Source: Institute for Human Services

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RECENT ARRIVALS

After experiencing a drop in 2014, the Institute for Human Services has seen an increase in the number of mainland homeless people on Oahu.

FISCAL YEAR CLIENTS ARRIVING IN HAWAII:



Source: Institute for Human Services

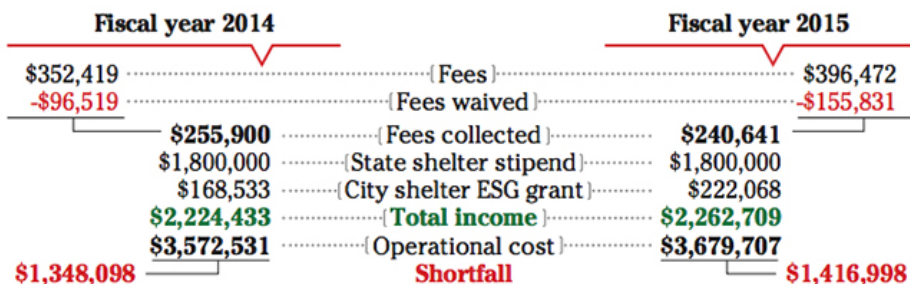
STAR-ADVERTISER

DAN NAKASO / DNAKASO@STARADVERTISER.COM Robert Wade, 58, got a one-way ticket from Florida to Honolulu with no plan or job and now has no money. He's been staying at the Institute for Human Services in Iwilei, which discourages people from the mainland from showing up with no housing plan. DAN NAKASO / DNAKASO@STARADVERTISER.COM Robert Wade explains the numbering system at the Institute for Human Services to get a sleeping mat. Wade sleeps on his mat on the floor of IHS' dining hall, next to a pillar.

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COST TO RUN THE SHELTER

The Institute for Human Services is often criticized for profiting off fees it charges to homeless people. But Hawaii's largest emergency homeless shelter continues to experience a budget shortfall.



Source: Institute for Human Services

STAR-ADVERTISER

'Iron Chef' host name new 'Five-villian

'Hawa Five-(still behind 'Castl

Natur

gas could cut Hawaii power bills "for years to come"

Teachers can get free tickets to "Waiting for Superman"

TV producer Al Masini dies

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