



HONU – Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons

Summary Presentation

October 2019



Overview

Issues and Opportunities



2019 Point In Time Count

- Requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January.
- Provides the community and providers with data to understand the number and characteristics of persons who are homeless at one point in time.
- Provides policy makers with data to effectively allocate resources aimed at ending and preventing homelessness.

2019 Point In Time Count

- Total # of homeless individuals on O‘ahu decreased by 506 (-10%) since 2017.
- Total # of sheltered homeless individuals on O‘ahu decreased by 298 (-13%) over the past year.
- Total # unsheltered homeless individuals increased by 256 (12%) over the past year

TOTAL #	2017	2018	2019
Homeless individuals	4,959	4,495	4,453
Sheltered homeless individuals	2,635	2,350	2,052
Unsheltered homeless individuals	2,324	2,145	2,401



Honolulu Police Department (HPD)

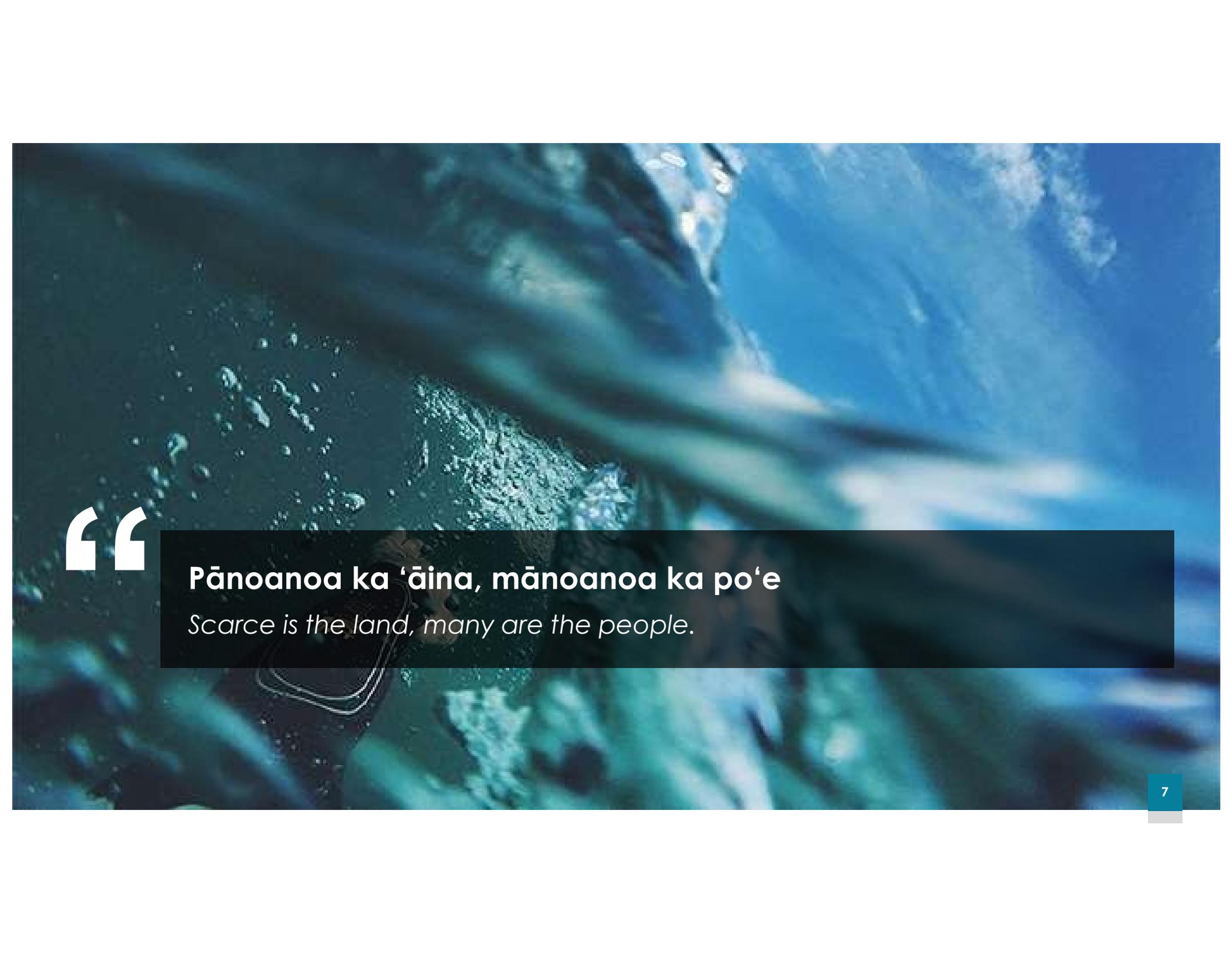
- H.E.L.P. HONOLULU PROJECT

- In 2018, the HPD Community Outreach Unit with its community partners conducted Health Efficiency Long-Term Partnerships (HELP) operations that assisted 189 people into shelters.
- HELP participants were limited to the available categories of shelter beds, which were sometime misaligned with the need. Due to the specific categories of homeless shelters, inventory suggests that shelter space is available when it is misaligned with the need.
- HELP operations have become increasingly successful and shown the need for a Mobile Navigation Center to route people to existing permanent shelters and into necessary services.



Lost Opportunities to Assist

- In the City and County of Honolulu, there are over 2,400 homeless, unsheltered individuals on the streets each day.
- Unsheltered individuals generate 9-1-1 calls, requiring a Honolulu Police Department (HPD) officer to respond.
- A simple report of nuisance crimes (i.e. blocking sidewalks, trespassing, panhandling) creates a high volume of interactions between the homeless population and HPD.
- Interactions create an opportunity to offer services that may immediately take someone off the streets.

An underwater photograph of a diver in a dark wetsuit swimming through clear blue water. Sunlight rays filter through the water, creating a shimmering effect. The diver is positioned in the lower left, looking towards the right. The background shows the surface of the water and a bright blue sky with some clouds.

““

Pānoanoa ka ‘āina, mānoanoa ka po‘e

Scarce is the land, many are the people.



Strategies and Resources

Current

Department of Community Services (DCS)

- 315 Hsg First portable vouchers; priority chronically homeless
- 60 Hsg First project-based vouchers
- Hygiene – permanent & mobile
- Urgent Care Clinic & Respite
- Landlord Engagement
- Outreach Navigation
- Transportation
- DV & Senior Homeless Priority Hsg
- 61 Special Needs Housing facilities
- 3,700 Section 8 Vouchers
- Rehab & Down Pymt Loans
- HOME and Affordable Hsg Fund supports developers with new construct/rehab 50% & 60% AMI
- Non-profit services in income eligible areas



Honolulu Police Department

- In early 2019, HPD initiated a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid Training
- HPD is one of four police departments in the nation to receive a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund the CIT training. The program is endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, CIT International and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- The program is different in that its single focus is officer training. It does not utilize an on-call psychologist model.

An aerial photograph of a winding road through a dense forest, viewed from a high angle. The entire image has a strong blue color cast. The road curves from the bottom left towards the top right, disappearing into the trees. The texture of the forest canopy is visible, with varying shades of blue and green.

HONU – Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons



What is HONU?

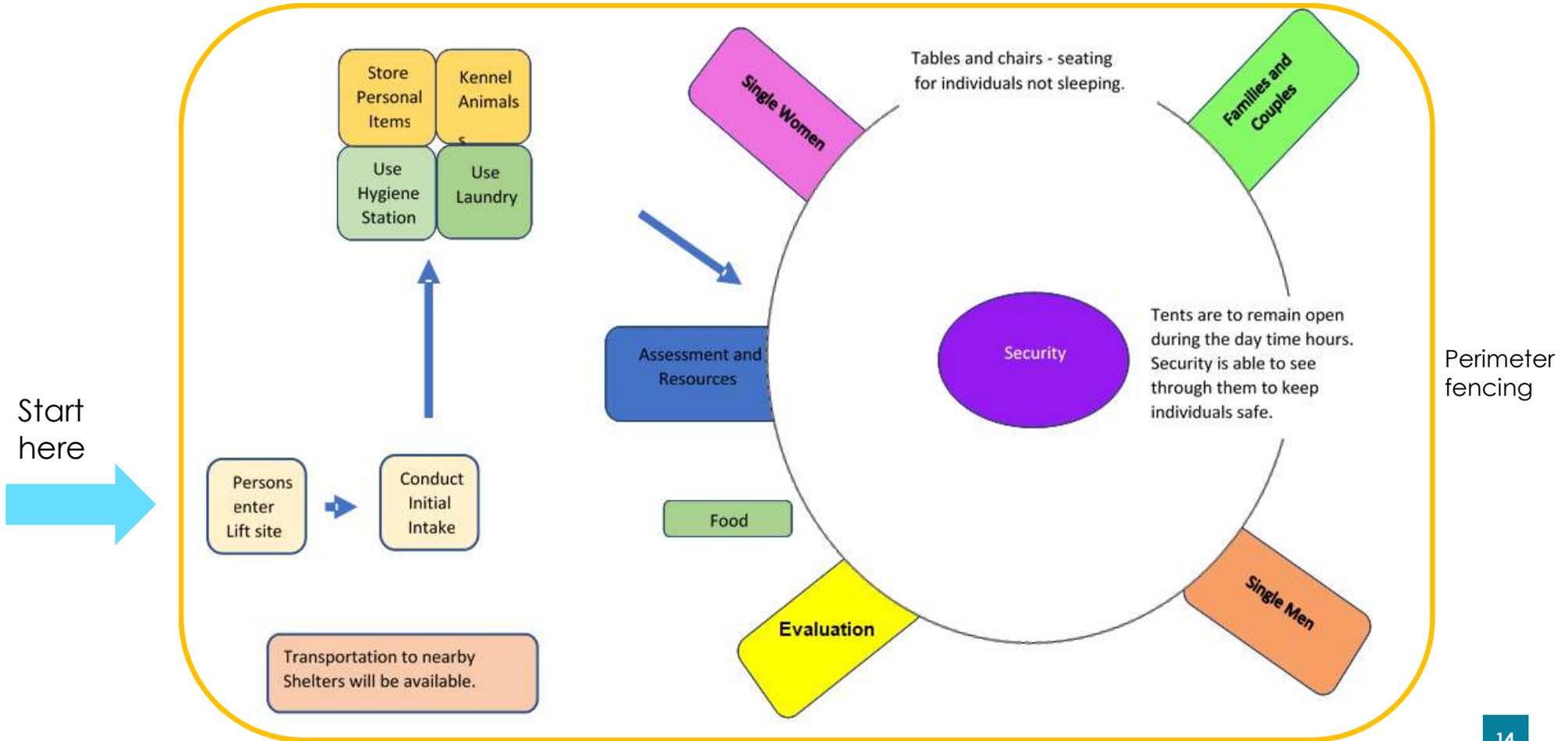
- In June 2018, HPD proposed the concept of a Lift Mobile Navigation Center (LIFT)
- LIFT referred to the lifted park regulations that would be suspended to facilitate the establishment of a Mobile Navigation Center.
- The unrestricted park land would allow the HPD to take over a section of a designated area and be unlimited by current rules, such as permitting, closure times, and camping restrictions.
- LIFT ~ rebranded as **HONU** – **H**omeless **O**utreach and **N**avigation for **U**nsheltered persons



HONU Partners

- Funded by State of Hawaii as three-year pilot project
- Co-managed by City and County of Honolulu
 - HPD equipment support and enforcement
 - DCS staff mobile site
- Partnerships with provider outreach and shelters

HONU Site Layout

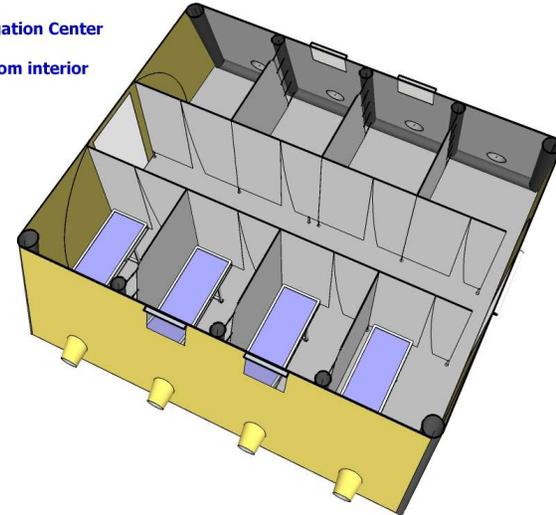


HONU – How Does it Work?

- Park site selected
- HPD delivers up to 10 inflatable tents made by Zumro
- Tents house 80 individuals or up to 100 family members
- Area functions as service-oriented hub where services & direct access to programs are provided

Honolulu Lift Mobile Navigation Center

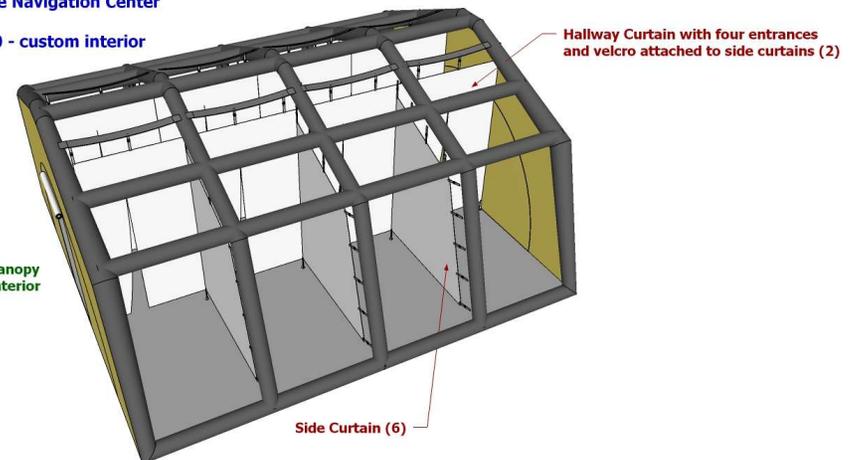
ZUMRO Model 400 - custom interior



Honolulu Lift Mobile Navigation Center

ZUMRO Model 400 - custom interior

shown without Canopy
for clarity of interior





HONU – How Does it Work?

- Tents remain 60 to 90 days on site
- Health care and social service partners based on-site to assist individuals move into a more permanent living arrangements elsewhere
- If shelter space not readily accessible or when appropriate, the HONU mobile navigation center serves as temporary overnight shelter until existing shelter services are available.
- Plainclothes officers will be on hand in the parks with additional patrols in nearby neighborhoods.

HONU - How Does it Work?

- After 60 to 90 day period, HONU relocates to a different site
- As HONU moves, so do staff & service providers, bringing services to areas with limited offerings
- Benefits of utilizing a City park includes infrastructure, site control and existing laws to regulate the area outside of the designated HONU site
- When the HONU vacates a park site HPD will utilize existing ordinances to enforce park rules and ensure that the area remains cleared for future park use



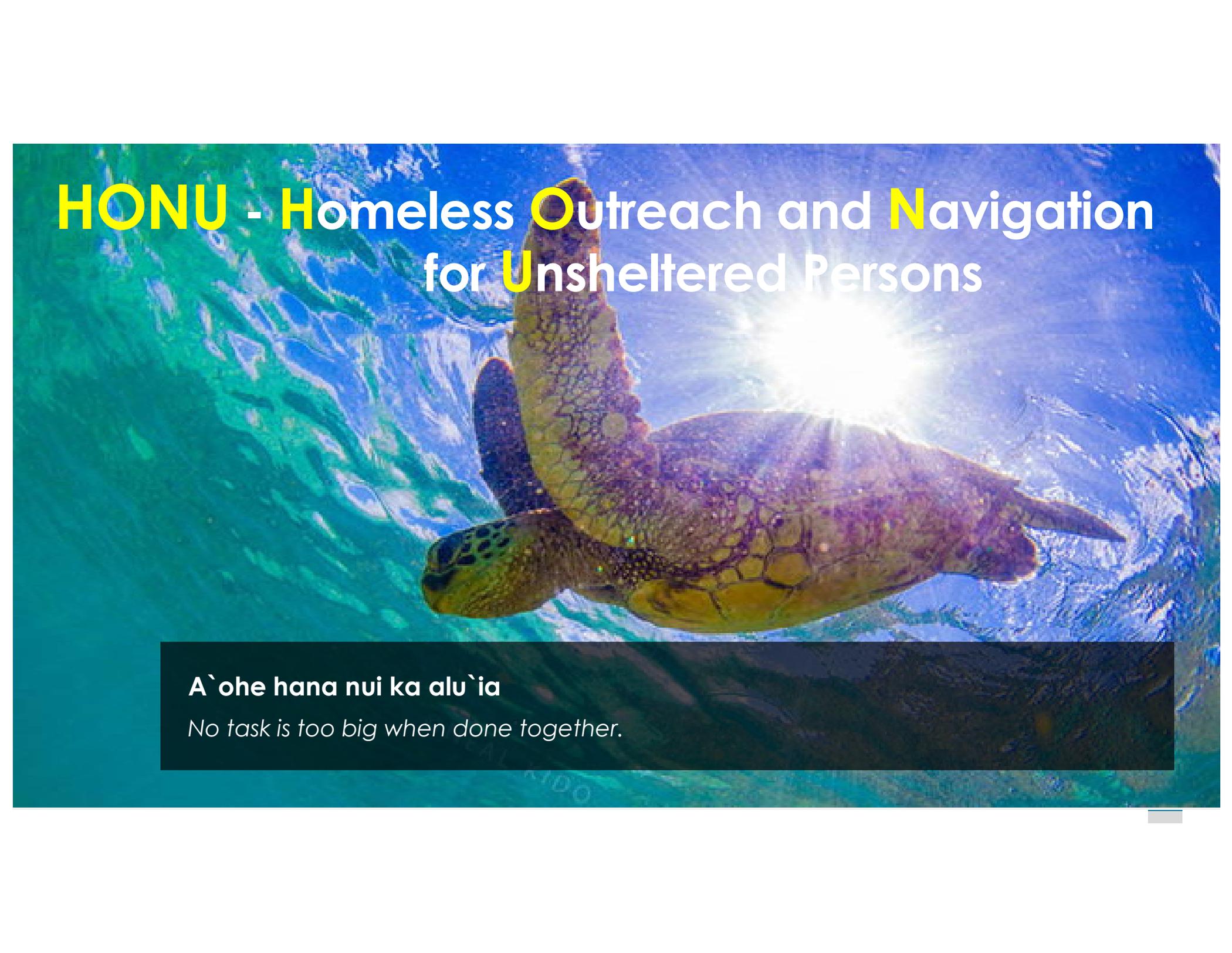
HONU - How Will it Help?

- On-site navigation staff bridge between officers and existing shelter services to streamline verification process, and provide real time status on shelter availability
- HPD & DCS offer robust social service partnerships including:
 - Medical care
 - Mental health counseling
 - Substance abuse counseling
 - Housing navigation
 - Hygiene and laundry services
 - Transportation to shelter



HONU - How Will it Help?

- HONU will coordinate additional services:
 - ID replacements (State ID Card, Hawaii Driver's License, etc.)
 - Veterinary care for pets
 - Meals (for those that have accepted shelter)
 - Transportation to transit stations (during extended stays)
- HONU provides additional opportunities for data collection
- HONU provides an intake point utilized by HPD or Sheriffs that law enforcement can refer an individual to in lieu of enforcement



HONU - Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons

A`ohe hana nui ka alu`ia

No task is too big when done together.



Park Considerations

- Working together as a team, HPD, DCS, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the City's ADA Compliance Officer and Corporation Counsel reviewed possible locations throughout the island that could host a HONU, met the conditions, including but not limited to:
 - being underused or in a location that minimizes negative community impact
 - being ADA suitable
 - close to bus transit for workers
 - access to water and electricity for mobile or portable showers, sinks, restrooms and power for lighting and business operations



**`Ike aku, `ike mai, kokua aku kokua mai; pela iho la ka nohana
`ohana**

Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.



Questions and Answers

- Project Team
 - Pamela A. Witty-Oakland, Director, DCS
 - Susan Ballard, Chief of Police, HPD
 - Mike Lambert, Captain, HPD HELP unit
 - J. Dan O'Neal, Sergeant, HPD HELP unit
 - Leina'ala Nakamura, Administrator, American Job Center, DCS
 - Darrell Young, Executive Assistant to the Director, DCS



THANK YOU