
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many homeless
2 persons thrive when they have ready access to familiar support
3 groups and loving family members. Many homeless persons from
4 the continental United States are currently stranded in Hawaii,
5 lacking independent financial resources to return to their home
6 states.

7 The legislature further finds that homelessness continues
8 to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social
9 problems. Hawaii has limited resources for human services, and
10 homeless persons may find their families or home states better
11 equipped to provide support.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 human services to establish and appropriate funds for a
14 three-year return-to-home pilot program to assist eligible
15 homeless individuals with family reunification.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
17 coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program to be



1 known as the return-to-home pilot program to provide eligible
2 homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with
3 family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
4 department shall contract with eligible non-profit
5 organizations, for profit organizations, or foundations to
6 administer the pilot program.

7 (b) No individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
8 participate in the return-to-home pilot program unless:

- 9 (1) The individual's participation is completely
10 voluntary;
- 11 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
12 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
13 the court to participate in the pilot program; and
- 14 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
15 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
16 to the individual's home state.

17 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
18 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
19 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
20 shall be kept on file with the department of human services.



1 (d) The return-to-home pilot program shall actively seek
2 the participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
3 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
4 industry to coordinate and implement the pilot program.

5 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
6 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,
7 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
8 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
9 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

10 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
11 on June 30, 2026.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2024-2025 for implementation of the return-to-home pilot
17 program, including all program costs and hiring of necessary
18 staff.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



H.B. NO. 1366

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INTRODUCED BY:

John M. G... [Signature]
JAN 25 2023



H.B. NO. 1366

Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of human services to establish a three-year return-to-home pilot program to return homeless individuals in the State to families and relatives in their home states. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the return-to-home pilot program.

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