
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Housing first, also known as rapid re-housing,
2 is a recent innovation in human-service programs meant to assist
3 homeless individuals. Housing first is an alternative to a
4 system of emergency shelters and transitional housing
5 progressions. Rather than moving homeless individuals through
6 different levels of housing on their way to independent living,
7 housing first moves homeless individuals immediately to their
8 own apartments. By creating a stable housing environment, other
9 issues that affect the household can be addressed, including
10 employment, job training, and health care.

11 Homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless
12 with disabilities such as addictions and mental illnesses, are
13 extremely fragile. Chronically homeless individuals are the
14 least likely of the homeless population to reach independent
15 living.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a housing first
17 special fund to fund housing first programs and services and to
18 require the Hawaii public housing authority to implement housing



1 first programs and services, as the authority deems appropriate
2 for clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from
3 housing first programs and services, and subject to the
4 availability of existing funds or housing first special fund
5 moneys.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§356D-A Housing first special fund. (a) There is
10 established in the state treasury the housing first special
11 fund, into which shall be deposited:

- 12 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;
- 13 and
- 14 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
- 15 private persons.

16 Each county may provide matching funds, which shall also be
17 deposited into the housing first special fund.

18 (b) Moneys in the housing first special fund shall be
19 administered and expended by the Hawaii public housing authority
20 and shall be used to provide housing first programs and
21 services.



1 §356D-B Housing first programs. (a) The Hawaii public
2 housing authority, in collaboration with the department of human
3 services and consultation with the United States Department of
4 Housing and Urban Development, as necessary, shall implement
5 housing first programs and services, as the authority deems
6 appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit from and
7 succeed with the implementation of housing first programs and
8 services, and subject to the availability of existing funds or
9 housing first special fund moneys.

10 (b) The principles of housing first include:

11 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
12 directly from streets and shelters, without a
13 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
14 provided that the authority may condition continued
15 tenancy through a housing first program on
16 participation in treatment services;

17 (2) Providing robust support services for program
18 participants, predicated on assertive engagement
19 instead of coercion;

20 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
21 program participants in housing first programs;



1 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions,
2 rather than mandating abstinence, while supporting
3 program-participant commitments to recovery; and

4 (5) Providing program-participants with leases and tenant
5 protections as provided by law.

6 The Hawaii public housing authority, in collaboration with
7 the department of human services, may contract with housing
8 first consultants to effectuate the purposes of this section.

9 (c) Housing first programs shall incorporate the
10 following:

11 (1) Identification of target populations, specifically
12 chronically homeless individuals;

13 (2) Developing assessments for the chronically homeless
14 population;

15 (3) Developing service components, including:

16 (A) Financial assistance;

17 (B) In-home case management services;

18 (C) Affordable housing requirements;

19 (D) Landlord cultivation;

20 (E) Housing-placement requirements; and

21 (F) Support services to move program-participants
22 toward self-sufficiency.



1 (d) The Hawaii public housing authority, in collaboration
2 with the department of human services, shall submit an annual
3 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
4 convening of each regular session, beginning with the regular
5 session of 2011. The annual report shall include:

- 6 (1) The total number of participants in housing first
7 programs;
- 8 (2) The annual costs of the programs;
- 9 (3) The types of support services offered; and
- 10 (4) Information regarding the duration of services
11 required for each participant.

12 (e) As used in this section, "chronically homeless
13 individual" means a homeless individual who has an addiction or
14 a mental illness, or both."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
17 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
18 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
19 the new sections in this Act.

20 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
21 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall, as appropriate:



- 1 (1) Add the two new sections in section 2 of this Act to
- 2 chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 3 (2) Substitute the words "department of human services" or
- 4 "department" wherever the words "Hawaii public housing
- 5 authority" or "authority" appear;
- 6 (3) Substitute "section 346-A" or "§346-A" wherever
- 7 "section 356D-A" or "§356D-A" appear; and
- 8 (4) Substitute "section 346-B" or "§346-B" wherever
- 9 "section 356D-B" or "§356D-B" appear.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010;

11 provided that section 5 shall take effect upon the enactment of

12 Senate Bill No. 910, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1 or any other House

13 or Senate bill passed by the 2010 legislature which transfers

14 homeless programs from the Hawaii public housing authority to

15 the department of human services.



Report Title:

HPHA; Housing First Programs and Special Fund; Conveyance Tax

Description:

Establishes the Housing First Special Fund. Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to implement Housing First programs and services as the Authority deems appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from housing first programs, and subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund moneys. (HB2318 CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

