
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 2010, a Homeless Service Utilization Report
2 prepared by the center on the family at the University of Hawaii
3 and the homeless programs office of the department of human
4 services revealed that statewide, there are 13,886 people who
5 experience homelessness. This represents an increase of three
6 per cent from just a year ago. The report also revealed that
7 six hundred forty-six persons deemed themselves at risk of
8 homelessness or precariously housed because they are three
9 monthly paychecks away from homelessness.

10 The legislature finds that Hawaii's limited rental housing
11 stock and the growing population have resulted in high rental
12 housing costs. Without affordable rentals, homeless persons who
13 are ready to transition from shelters to permanent housing have
14 nowhere to go, which in turn leaves shelters unable to take in
15 the growing numbers of new residents who become homeless. This
16 results in a growing population of unsheltered homeless and a
17 higher demand for homeless programs and services.



1 The ability of the State's homeless programs office to meet
2 the needs of the growing homeless population has been limited by
3 a consistent lack of resources over the years. The recent
4 economic downturn has made a dire situation critical, due to
5 budget cuts and the reductions-in-force of needed positions.

6 The purpose of this Act is to address the needs of the
7 growing homeless population in Hawaii and to increase the
8 inventory of affordable rental housing which in turn will enable
9 homeless people to help themselves by achieving improved,
10 permanent living situations.

11 SECTION 2. The Hawaii housing finance and development
12 corporation, the homeless programs office of the department of
13 human services, and the Hawaii Association of Realtors shall
14 work together and conduct a survey to identify and inventory
15 state-owned, state-managed, and other government and privately-
16 owned or managed vacant housing units statewide that could be
17 used as affordable rental housing under chapter 201H, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes, including housing units that could be used as
19 affordable rental housing if renovated or restored.

20 SECTION 3. The Hawaii housing finance and development
21 corporation, the homeless programs office of the department of
22 human services, and the Hawaii Association of Realtors shall



1 submit one report annually to the governor and the legislature,
2 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
3 session, on the results of the survey conducted under section 2
4 of this Act, and include in the report an inventory list that
5 identifies each vacant unit by legal owner, street location, and
6 tax map key number; provided that if any act passed by the 2011
7 legislature, whether enacted before or after the effective date
8 of this Act, establishes an interagency council on homelessness
9 tasked with formulating and coordinating a unified plan to
10 address homelessness in Hawaii, the report shall also be
11 submitted annually to that council.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13



Report Title:

Homeless; Affordable Housing

Description:

Requires the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, the homeless programs office of the department of human services, and the Hawaii Association of Realtors to identify state-owned, state-managed, and other government and privately-owned or managed vacant housing units that could be used as affordable rental housing. Report annually to the governor and legislature; provided that if any act passed by the 2011 legislature establishes an interagency council on homelessness, the report shall also be submitted annually to that council.
(SD1)

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