

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

PART I

1
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
3 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
4 challenging social problems. The legislature further finds that
5 according to a recent report, fourteen thousand two hundred
6 homeless individuals were served through shelter and outreach
7 programs in fiscal year 2011. Of these individuals, nine
8 thousand seven hundred eighty-one resided in the city and county
9 of Honolulu. The legislature also finds that homeless service
10 providers estimate that six thousand homeless people in the
11 State need shelter each night.

12 The legislature additionally finds that homelessness is a
13 complex issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated
14 efforts at all levels. The legislature also finds that homeless
15 persons face a myriad of issues, including mental illness,
16 substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of
17 affordable housing. Appropriate funding for programs and
18 services tailored to address these issues is essential.



1 program, for homeless working individuals and their families who
2 are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain
3 permanent housing; provided that:

4 (1) The maximum subsidy shall be \$300 per month; provided
5 that in order to qualify for the subsidy, a household
6 shall pay a minimum of forty per cent of their
7 adjusted gross income for rent; and

8 (2) A household's adjusted gross income shall be
9 calculated in the same manner as calculated by the
10 United States Department of Housing and Urban
11 Development.

12 The sum appropriated for program and administrative costs
13 associated with establishing and operating the shallow subsidy
14 program shall be expended by the department of human services
15 through a contract issued pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii
16 Revised Statutes, and sums appropriated for staff within the
17 homeless programs office to administer the program shall be
18 expended by the department of human services for the purposes of
19 this part.

20 **PART III**

21 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
22 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of



1 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
3 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an
4 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing
5 first programs include:

- 6 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
7 directly from streets and the shelters without a
8 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
- 9 (2) Providing robust support services for program
10 participants that are predicated on assertive
11 engagement rather than coercion;
- 12 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
13 program participants in housing first programs;
- 14 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions
15 rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
16 program participant commitments to recovery; and
- 17 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
18 protections as provided by law.

19 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble
20 the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and
21 Urban Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans
22 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher



1 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to
2 the legislature pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the
4 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements
5 plus support services through the shelter plus care and
6 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

7 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
8 department of human services to support the State's housing
9 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who
10 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult
11 to serve.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
15 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund
16 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
17 the department of human services to continue to administer
18 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in
19 the State.

20 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
21 special fund the sum of \$750,000 or so much thereof as may be
22 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of human



1 services to continue to administer housing first programs for
2 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 human services for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART IV**

6 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that the purpose of the
7 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's
8 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program is to
9 provide economically distressed households and individuals with
10 financial and other assistance to prevent them from becoming
11 homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be
12 quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds under this program
13 are intended to target individuals and families who would be
14 homeless but for this assistance.

15 The department of human services administers the
16 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide
17 homeless prevention and housing assistance to all eligible
18 individuals and households who apply through contracted
19 organizations. The funds from the program provide for a variety
20 of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental
21 assistance and housing relocation, and stabilization services,



1 such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility
2 payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

3 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
4 department of human services to provide homelessness prevention
5 and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible individuals and
6 households.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
10 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 human services for the purposes of this part.

13 **PART V**

14 SECTION 10. The continuum of care permanent supportive
15 housing programs funded by the United States Department of
16 Housing and Urban Development provide rental assistance in
17 connection with supportive services. The programs provide a
18 variety of permanent housing choices, accompanied by a range of
19 supportive services funded through other sources. The programs
20 assist hard-to-serve homeless individuals with disabilities and
21 their families. These individuals primarily include those with



1 serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and drugs,
2 and HIV, AIDS, or related diseases.

3 There are four components to the continuum of care
4 permanent supportive housing programs: single room occupancy
5 component – moderate rehabilitation for single-room occupancy
6 dwellings; sponsor-based rental assistance component; project-
7 based rental assistance component; and tenant-based rental
8 assistance component. Under all components, supportive services
9 must be available to meet the needs of participants. Similar to
10 many other federal programs, continuum of care permanent
11 supportive housing programs have a match requirement.
12 Applicants must match the aggregate amount of continuum of care
13 rental assistance with supportive services. This ensures that
14 appropriate and timely services will be available to meet the
15 needs of individual participants.

16 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for
17 the continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs of
18 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

19 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
22 matching funds for the continuum of care permanent supportive



1 housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 human services for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART VI**

6 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that homelessness
7 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
8 challenging social problems. The number of homeless persons in
9 the State, estimated to be approximately six thousand on any
10 given day, is indicative of the limited shelter space available.

11 The legislature further finds that new and innovative
12 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.
13 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political
14 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight
15 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.

16 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program
17 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking
18 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons
19 with vehicles.

20 Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a
21 homeless assistance working to group to work within each local
22 neighborhood in each county to identify, plan, and implement



1 housing options for homeless persons in each local community
2 that reflect shared responsibility for addressing homelessness
3 in Hawaii.

4 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
5 construction and demonstration of housing solutions related to
6 the homeless assistance working group.

7 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
10 construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing
11 solutions as they relate to the working group's findings and
12 recommendations.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 human services for the purposes of this part.

15 **PART VII**

16 SECTION 14. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section
17 16, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as
18 follows:

19 "(a) There is established [~~within the department of human~~
20 ~~services~~] a homeless assistance working group. The purpose of
21 the working group shall be to:



- 1 (1) Work within each local neighborhood in each county to
2 identify various private and public properties whose
3 owners are interested in partnering with the local
4 neighborhood and government to provide land or
5 structures that can be used to provide temporary homes
6 for homeless persons, including people who are living
7 in their motor vehicles;
- 8 (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office
9 and continuum of care providers to match homeless
10 persons in every community with appropriate care and
11 housing;
- 12 (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and
13 government agencies that may be willing to offer their
14 property for homeless persons living in their motor
15 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and
16 support to homeless persons;
- 17 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options
18 within each local community; and
- 19 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency
20 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.
- 21 (b) ~~[The director of human services, or a designee,]~~ The
22 chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives



1 committees on human services shall convene the working group and
2 invite the following as members:

- 3 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;
- 4 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service
5 organizations, which may include:
 - 6 (A) Community associations;
 - 7 (B) Neighborhood boards; and
 - 8 (C) Faith-based organizations;
- 9 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested
10 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,
11 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for
12 homeless persons;
- 13 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are
14 currently experiencing or formerly experienced
15 homelessness;
- 16 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 17 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,
18 development, and building industry;
- 19 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including
20 realtors and financial institutions;
- 21 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 22 (9) Representatives of legal services;



- 1 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
 - 2 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city
 - 3 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii
 - 4 interagency council on homelessness and homeless
 - 5 programs office administrator;
 - 6 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected
 - 7 officials; and
 - 8 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.
- 9 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from
 10 among themselves and serve without compensation."

PART VIII

12 SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

15 INTRODUCED BY: Shannon Chun OARISH

Rosely & Baker



Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group;
Appropriation

Description:

Part I: Appropriates funds to the department of health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services. Part II: Appropriates funds for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program. Parts III and IV: Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals and to reestablish the homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program. Part V: Appropriates matching funds for the federal continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services. Part VI: Appropriates funds for the homeless assistance working group. Part VII: Transfers the homeless assistance working group from the department of human services to the legislature. Requires the chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives committees on human services to convene the homeless assistance working group instead of the director of human services, or a designee.

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