
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 The purpose of this part is to better assist individuals
2 facing or experiencing homelessness by funding various homeless
3 and housing programs.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
7 substance abuse treatment and mental health support services for
8 individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 health for the purposes of this part.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
14 clean and sober housing support services to be administered by
15 the alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of health.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 health for the purposes of this part.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a
21 rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy
22 program, for homeless working individuals and their families who



1 are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain
2 permanent housing; provided that:

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

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

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
12 housing authority for the purposes of this part.

13 **PART II**

14 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
15 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of
16 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
18 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an
19 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing
20 first programs include:



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

14 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
15 department of human services to support the State's housing
16 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who
17 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult
18 to serve.

19 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
22 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund

1 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
2 the department of human services to continue to administer
3 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in
4 the State.

5 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
6 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of human
8 services to continue to administer housing first programs for
9 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

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

12 **PART III**

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



1 The department of human services administers the
2 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide
3 homeless prevention and housing assistance to all eligible
4 individuals and households who apply through contracted
5 organizations. The funds from the program provide for a variety
6 of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental
7 assistance and housing relocation, and stabilization services,
8 such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility
9 payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

10 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
11 department of human services to provide homelessness prevention
12 and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible individuals and
13 households.

14 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
17 the homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.

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

PART IV

21 SECTION 10. The continuum of care permanent supportive
22 housing programs funded by the United States Department of



1 Housing and Urban Development provide rental assistance in
2 connection with supportive services. The programs provide a
3 variety of permanent housing choices, accompanied by a range of
4 supportive services funded through other sources. The programs
5 assist hard-to-serve homeless individuals with disabilities and
6 their families. These individuals primarily include those with
7 serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and drugs,
8 and HIV, AIDS, or related diseases.

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



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

4 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
7 matching funds for the continuum of care permanent supportive
8 housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and
9 Urban Development.

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

12 **PART V**

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

18 The legislature further finds that new and innovative
19 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.
20 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political
21 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight
22 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.



1 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program
2 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking
3 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons
4 with vehicles.

5 Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a
6 homeless assistance working to group to work within each local
7 neighborhood in each county to identify, plan, and implement
8 housing options for homeless persons in each local community
9 that reflect shared responsibility for addressing homelessness
10 in Hawaii.

11 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
12 purchase and construction of housing solutions related to the
13 homeless assistance working group's findings and
14 recommendations.

15 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
18 the purchase and construction of innovative housing solutions
19 for homeless persons as they relate to the working group's
20 findings and recommendations; provided that:



1 .(1) The purchase and construction of innovative housing
2 solutions pursuant to this section shall not be
3 subject to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

4 (2) The housing created pursuant to this section shall be
5 ready for use and fully occupied by December 1, 2014.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
7 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
8 this part.

9 **PART VI**

10 SECTION 14. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section
11 16, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as
12 follows:

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

16 (1) Work within each local neighborhood in each county to
17 identify various private and public properties whose
18 owners are interested in partnering with the local
19 neighborhood and government to provide land or
20 structures that can be used to provide temporary homes
21 for homeless persons, including people who are living
22 in their motor vehicles;



1 (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office
2 and continuum of care providers to match homeless
3 persons in every community with appropriate care and
4 housing;

5 (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and
6 government agencies that may be willing to offer their
7 property for homeless persons living in their motor
8 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and
9 support to homeless persons;

10 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options
11 within each local community; and

12 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency
13 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.

14 (b) [~~The director of human services, or a designee,~~] The
15 chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives
16 committees on human services shall convene the working group and
17 invite the following as members:

18 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;

19 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service
20 organizations, which may include:

21 (A) Community associations;

22 (B) Neighborhood boards; and



- 1 (C) Faith-based organizations;
- 2 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested
- 3 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,
- 4 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for
- 5 homeless persons;
- 6 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are
- 7 currently experiencing or formerly experienced
- 8 homelessness;
- 9 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 10 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,
- 11 development, and building industry;
- 12 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including
- 13 realtors and financial institutions;
- 14 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 15 (9) Representatives of legal services;
- 16 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
- 17 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city
- 18 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii
- 19 interagency council on homelessness and homeless
- 20 programs office administrator;
- 21 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected
- 22 officials; and



1 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.
2 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from
3 among themselves and serve without compensation."

4 **PART VII**

5 SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates unspecified amounts to various programs that provide housing, housing assistance, and supportive services to individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Amends structure and composition of homelessness working group. Effective July 1, 2050. (SD1)

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

