

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 to qualify for the subsidy, a household shall pay
6 a minimum of forty per cent of their adjusted gross
7 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 Hawaii public housing authority to qualify for public
11 housing under the authority's control.

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

17 PART III

18 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
19 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of
20 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
21 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
22 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have



1 substance addiction issues or mental illness, or both. The
2 principles of housing first programs include:

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

17 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble
18 the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and
19 Urban Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans
20 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher
21 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to
22 the legislature, pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the
2 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements
3 plus support services through the shelter plus care and
4 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

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

9 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 to be
12 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund,
13 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
14 continue the administration of housing first programs for
15 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

16 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
17 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the continued
19 administration of housing first programs for chronically
20 homeless individuals in the State.

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



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PART IV

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

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

The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the department of human services to provide homelessness prevention



1 and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible individuals and
2 households.

3 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the
6 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.

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

9 PART V

10 SECTION 10. The shelter plus care program of the United
11 States Department of Housing and Urban Development provides
12 rental assistance in connection with other supportive services.
13 The program provides a variety of permanent housing choices,
14 accompanied by a range of supportive services funded through
15 other sources. The program assists hard-to-serve homeless
16 individuals with disabilities and their families. These
17 individuals primarily include those with serious mental illness,
18 chronic problems with alcohol and drugs, HIV, AIDS, or related
19 diseases.

20 There are four components to the shelter plus care program:
21 single room occupancy component -- moderate rehabilitation for
22 single-room occupancy dwellings; sponsor-based rental assistance



1 component; project-based rental assistance component; and
2 tenant-based rental assistance component. Under all components,
3 supportive services must be available to meet the needs of
4 participants. Similar to many other federal programs, the
5 shelter plus care program has a match requirement. State
6 applicants must match the aggregate amount of shelter plus care
7 rental assistance with supportive services. This ensures that
8 appropriate and timely services will be available to meet the
9 needs of individual participants.

10 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for
11 the shelter plus care program.

12 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for
15 matching funds for the shelter plus care program of the United
16 States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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



PART VI

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2 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that many homeless
3 persons are known to thrive better when they have ready access
4 to familiar support groups or family members. In light of this
5 finding, the legislature enacted Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2013, which in part authorized the department of human services
7 to establish a return-to-home program. The intent of the
8 return-to-home program is to ensure that those individuals who
9 find themselves homeless in the islands are able to reconnect
10 with support networks ready and able to receive them.

11 The purpose of this part is to require the department of
12 human services to establish a three-year return-to-home program
13 for eligible homeless individuals.

14 SECTION 13. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, is
15 amended by amending section 13 to read as follows:

16 "SECTION 13. (a) The department of human services [~~may~~]
17 shall coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program
18 to be known as the return-to-home pilot program to provide
19 eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited
20 with family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
21 department [~~may~~] shall contract with eligible non-profit



1 organizations, for profit organizations, or foundations to
2 administer the pilot program.

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

5 (1) The individual's participation is completely
6 voluntary;

7 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
8 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
9 the court to participate in the pilot program; and

10 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
11 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
12 to the individual's home state.

13 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
14 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
15 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
16 shall be kept on file with the pilot program.

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

21 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
22 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,



1 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
2 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
3 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

4 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
5 on December 31, [~~2016~~] 2018."

6 SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for
9 implementation of the return-to-home pilot program, including
10 all program costs and hiring of necessary staff.

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

13 PART VII

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

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



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

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

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

16 SECTION 16. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the
19 construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing
20 solutions as they relate to the homeless assistance working
21 group's findings and recommendations.



- 1 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and
2 support to homeless persons;
- 3 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options
4 within each local community; and
- 5 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency
6 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.
- 7 (b) ~~[The director of human services, or a designee,]~~ The
8 chairpersons of the committees on human services of the senate
9 and the house of representatives shall convene the working group
10 and invite the following as members:
- 11 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;
- 12 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service
13 organizations, which may include:
- 14 (A) Community associations;
- 15 (B) Neighborhood boards; and
- 16 (C) Faith-based organizations;
- 17 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested
18 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,
19 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for
20 homeless persons;



- 1 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are
- 2 currently experiencing or formerly experienced
- 3 homelessness;
- 4 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 5 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,
- 6 development, and building industry;
- 7 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including
- 8 realtors and financial institutions;
- 9 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 10 (9) Representatives of legal services;
- 11 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
- 12 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city
- 13 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii
- 14 interagency council on homelessness and homeless
- 15 programs office administrator;
- 16 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected
- 17 officials; and
- 18 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.

19 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from
20 among themselves and serve without compensation.

21 (c) The working group shall convene within thirty days of
22 the effective date of this Act.



1 (d) The working group shall submit an interim report of
 2 its findings and recommendations, including the progress made to
 3 provide housing and support services, as appropriate, for
 4 homeless persons and any innovative temporary housing solutions,
 5 to the legislature no later than one hundred fifty days after
 6 the effective date of this Act.

7 (e) The homeless assistance working group shall dissolve
 8 on June 30, 2017."

PART IX

10 SECTION 18. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 19. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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JAN 23 2015



H.B. NO. 596

Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group;
Appropriations

Description:

Funds various homelessness service programs. Mandates the establishment of the pilot Return-to-Home Program. Transfers administrative responsibility for the Homeless Assistance Working Group from DHS to the Legislature. Requires chairpersons of the committees on human services of the Senate and the House of Representatives to convene the Homeless Assistance Working Group.

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

