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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 201H-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "Housing first program rental assistance payments" means  
5 periodic rental assistance payments pursuant to a housing first  
6 rental assistance contract expressly for units in an eligible  
7 project that provides housing for chronically homeless  
8 individuals participating in housing first programs as set forth  
9 in section 346-378."

10          SECTION 2. Section 201H-123, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

12          "(c) The corporation may use, as needed, the aggregate  
13 principal sum and the accumulated earnings in the rental  
14 assistance revolving fund to make payments under rental  
15 assistance contracts or to subsidize tenants' rents in eligible  
16 projects developed under this part; provided that [~~the~~]:



1        (1)    The corporation shall use up to \$25,000,000 plus any  
2                    bond proceeds to provide interim construction  
3                    financing to:

4        [~~1~~](A)    Qualified sponsors who are private nonprofit or  
5                    for-profit entities; or

6        [~~2~~](B)    The corporation, for the development of  
7                    affordable rental housing; and

8        (2)    Housing first program rental assistance payments may  
9                    be made from sums made available from the department  
10                   of human services pursuant to section 346-378;

11 provided further that the corporation, in allotting interim  
12 construction financing moneys pursuant to this subpart, shall  
13 give preference to rental housing projects developed by  
14 qualified sponsors who are private nonprofit or for-profit  
15 entities."

16        SECTION 3.    Section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended as follows:

18        1.    By amending subsections (b) and (c) to read:

19        "(b)    The principles of housing first include:

20        (1)    Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing  
21                    directly from streets and shelters, without a



1 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;  
2 provided that the department may condition continued  
3 tenancy through a housing first program on  
4 participation in treatment services;

5 (2) Providing robust support services for program  
6 participants, predicated on assertive engagement  
7 instead of coercion;

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

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

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

15 The department of human services may contract with housing  
16 first consultants and the Hawaii housing finance and development  
17 corporation to effectuate the purposes of this section.

18 (c) Housing first programs shall incorporate the  
19 following:

20 (1) Identification of target populations, specifically  
21 chronically homeless individuals;



1 (2) Developing assessments for the chronically homeless  
2 population;

3 (3) Developing service components, including:

4 (A) Financial assistance;

5 (B) In-home case management services;

6 (C) Affordable housing requirements;

7 (D) Landlord cultivation;

8 (E) Housing-placement requirements; and

9 (F) Support services to move program-participants  
10 toward self-sufficiency[-];

11 provided that housing first programs may incorporate housing  
12 first program rental assistance payments pursuant to chapter  
13 201H, part III, subpart C."

14 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

15 "(e) As used in this section, "chronically homeless  
16 individual" means [~~a homeless individual who has an addiction or~~  
17 ~~a mental illness, or both.~~] an individual who has experienced  
18 homelessness for one year or longer, or who has experienced at  
19 least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years and  
20 has a disability."



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Housing First Program Rental Assistance Payments; Homelessness

**Description:**

Defines "housing first program rental assistance payments".  
Allows HHFDC to make housing first program rental assistance  
payments from sums made available from DHS through the housing  
first program. Defines "chronically homeless individual".  
Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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