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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

**PART I**

1  
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
3 highest rate per capita of homelessness of any state in the  
4 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate per capita of  
5 chronically unsheltered homeless of any state. The 2016 point  
6 in time count found an estimated 7,921 people living on the  
7 streets and in shelters in Hawaii. These statistics indicate a  
8 four per cent increase overall in the total number of homeless  
9 and a twelve per cent increase in the number of unsheltered  
10 individuals and families since 2015.

11 The legislature also finds that addressing homelessness  
12 requires a multi-faceted approach using interventions targeted  
13 to the particular characteristics of the population being  
14 served. The legislature believes that outreach is a critical  
15 part of this multi-faceted approach. A more strategic,  
16 coordinated outreach effort is needed to assertively serve the  
17 growing percentage of homeless persons who are not living in  
18 shelter programs. As the State and counties increase



1 enforcement efforts in parks and public areas, outreach to  
2 homeless persons becomes even more significant. Outreach to the  
3 special populations of the mentally ill and substance abusers is  
4 also critical to ending homelessness. Programs such as the law  
5 enforcement assisted diversion pilot project assists unsheltered  
6 persons experiencing substance abuse for whom probable cause for  
7 arrest exists, by diverting these low-level offenders from  
8 booking and redirecting them to community-based treatment and  
9 support services.

10 The legislature further finds that unaccompanied homeless  
11 youth are often hard to locate and identify and are particularly  
12 vulnerable to exploitation. Between 2000 and 2010, over thirty  
13 per cent of all juvenile detainments in Hawaii were for running  
14 away from home. Outreach is especially critical to help newly  
15 homeless youth navigate the social services system to find safe  
16 alternatives to homelessness. Youth service providers report  
17 that the number of homeless youth has been increasing each year.  
18 The legislature believes that the State needs to address youth  
19 homelessness to prevent these homeless youth from becoming  
20 homeless adults.



1       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
2 department of health and the department of human services,  
3 including the office of youth services, to provide homeless  
4 outreach services.

5                               **PART II**

6       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
10 2018-2019 for outreach to homeless persons with serious and  
11 persistent mental illness.

12       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
13 of health for the purposes of this part.

14                               **PART III**

15       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
19 2018-2019 for outreach, counseling, and diversion for homeless  
20 unsheltered persons experience substance abuse; provided that



1 \$200,000 shall be used for the law enforcement assisted  
2 diversion pilot project.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,200,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2018-2019 for additional outreach to homeless individuals and  
8 families with children.

9 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
13 2018-2019 for civil legal services for homeless persons.

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

16 **PART IV**

17 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
21 2018-2019 for outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth.



1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
 2 youth services of the department of human services for the  
 3 purposes of this part.

4   **PART V**

5           SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to DOH and DHS, including the office of youth services, to provide homeless outreach services. (SD1)

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

