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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a serious  
3 need to develop affordable rental housing in Hawaii to meet the  
4 needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of  
5 becoming homeless. Addressing these needs will be a challenge  
6 because of the sheer number of units needed to meet demand and  
7 the various barriers that can prevent development and  
8 preservation of affordable housing.

9 The legislature further finds that the rental housing  
10 revolving fund provides loans to fill financing gaps to enable  
11 the development, preservation, or rehabilitation of affordable  
12 rental housing projects, including projects consisting of  
13 housing units for persons and families at or below one hundred  
14 per cent, eighty per cent, and thirty per cent of the median  
15 family income. By creating a stable housing environment through  
16 the construction of housing for individuals and families who are  
17 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, other issues can be



1 addressed that impact the homeless, such as employment, job  
2 training, and health care.

3 The purpose of this part is to authorize the issuance of  
4 general obligation bonds, revenues from which are to be  
5 deposited into the rental housing revolving fund to increase the  
6 inventory of affordable rental housing, especially for low-  
7 income individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of  
8 becoming homeless.

9 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
10 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
12 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2018-2019  
13 for the purposes set forth in section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised  
14 Statutes; provided that:

15 (1) \$ shall be used for projects or units in  
16 projects that are for persons and families with  
17 incomes at or below thirty per cent of the median  
18 family income;

19 (2) \$ shall be used for projects or units in  
20 projects that are for persons and families with



1 incomes at or below fifty per cent of the median  
2 family income; and  
3 (3) \$ shall be used for projects or units in  
4 projects that are for persons and families with  
5 incomes at or below eighty per cent of the median  
6 family income;  
7 provided further that modular housing may be considered as a  
8 possible housing option.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
10 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of  
11 this part.

12 PART II

13 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that homelessness  
14 continues to be an issue of concern for the State. Federal  
15 statistics indicate that as of 2017, Hawaii had fifty-one  
16 homeless individuals per every ten thousand people, the highest  
17 rate per capita in the nation. In 2016, the legislature  
18 invested \$10,000,000 in new funding to address this ongoing  
19 problem. The 2017-2018 executive biennium budget, as submitted  
20 by the governor, proposes to invest an additional \$20,900,000 in  
21 new funding to address homelessness issues. However, the



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1 legislature believes that additional funding is necessary to  
2 ensure that the State has adequate resources to confront this  
3 challenge.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to allocate  
5 additional funding to the department of human services to  
6 support homelessness mitigation and prevention efforts in the  
7 State.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to provide  
11 housing subsidies for homeless families through the rent  
12 supplement program.

13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
16 housing first program to provide housing and supportive services  
17 to homeless individuals who may have mental health or addiction  
18 issues, and for the hiring of full-time equivalent ( FTE)  
19 positions.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



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1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to support  
 2 the rapid rehousing program to move capable families out of  
 3 shelters.

4 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to support  
 7 the operations of the family and elderly housing program.

8 SECTION 8. The sums appropriated in this part shall be  
 9 expended by the department of human services for the purposes of  
 10 this Act.

### PART III

12 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

*John W. Burns*  
*Samuel H. Lathrop*  
*Bill Kelzner*  
*John*  
*Madeline K. Nakanama*  
*John*  
*John*  
*Alan*  
*Matthew*  
*Nicole E. Lauer*  
*Samuel S. King*  
*John*  
*John*



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**Report Title:**

Housing; Homelessness; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund construction of affordable housing development projects. Appropriates moneys for homelessness mitigation and prevention efforts.

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

