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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
2 highest rate per capita of homelessness of any state in the  
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate per capita of  
4 chronically unsheltered homeless of any state. The 2017 Hawaii  
5 Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count found an estimated 7,220  
6 people living on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii.

7           The legislature further finds that because homeless  
8 outreach, homeless shelters, and enforcement of laws to prevent  
9 illegal homeless encampments are conducted by different  
10 departments and agencies, no single entity is truly charged with  
11 solving the problem of homelessness.

12           The purpose of this Act is to establish a central homeless  
13 intake office within the department of human services to  
14 coordinate the intake of homeless individuals and to refer those  
15 individuals to services that fit each individual's needs.



# H.B. NO. 1926

1           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§346-           Central homeless intake office. (a) There is  
5 established within the department the central homeless intake  
6 office. The head of the office shall be known as the executive  
7 director of the central homeless intake office. The executive  
8 director shall be appointed by the governor without regard to  
9 chapter 76.

10           (b) The central homeless intake office shall:

11           (1) Assess homeless individuals or families seeking  
12           housing, shelter, medical, or other assistance  
13           services and refer those persons to the applicable  
14           service providers;

15           (2) Establish criteria, prioritizing fundamental  
16           physiological and safety needs, for referring homeless  
17           individuals or families to programs or services;

18           (3) Coordinate state, county, and private entities that  
19           provide services to homeless individuals and recommend  
20           improvements that the government and private entities



1           may make to reduce the number of homeless individuals  
2           and families in the State;

3           (4) Establish or adopt an electronic data system to record  
4           data of individuals and families who access services  
5           through the central homeless intake office. The  
6           electronic data system shall include medical records  
7           and other client-level data that may be accessed by  
8           service providers approved by the executive director;

9           (5) Establish benchmarks for assisting homeless  
10           individuals and families and reducing the number of  
11           homeless individuals and families in the State; and

12           (6) Perform other necessary or desirable functions to  
13           facilitate the provision of assistance to and  
14           reduction of the population of homeless individuals  
15           and families in the State.

16           (c) The executive director of the central homeless intake  
17 office shall submit a report to the legislature no later than  
18 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session on  
19 the activities of the central homeless intake office and its  
20 progress in meeting established benchmarks for reducing the  
21 number of homeless individuals and families in the State."



# H.B. NO. 1926

1           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
4 establishment and operation of the central homeless intake  
5 office.

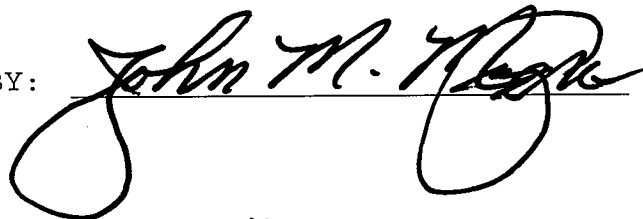
6           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
7 human services for the purposes of this Act.

8           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2018



# H.B. NO. 1926

**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Central Homeless Intake Office; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Central Homeless Intake Office within DHS to assess homeless individuals and families and refer them to assistance services. Makes an appropriation for the Intake Office.

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

