
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness in
2 Hawaii has reached epidemic proportions. Homelessness impacts
3 residents and visitors alike and more must be done to mitigate
4 homelessness through various services. Since 2011, the governor
5 has appointed a coordinator on homelessness to coordinate
6 homelessness efforts statewide. The Hawaii interagency council
7 on homelessness was established by Act 105, Session Laws of
8 Hawaii 2012 (codified as part XVIII of chapter 346, Hawaii
9 Revised Statutes), with the governor's coordinator on
10 homelessness designated to serve as chair. However, the
11 governor's coordinator on homelessness position has not been
12 statutorily established.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish clear lines of
14 accountability and to empower the governor's coordinator on
15 homelessness by:

16 (1) Statutorily establishing the position; and



1 (2) Specifying that the governor's coordinator on
2 homelessness reports directly to the governor, thereby
3 allowing direct access to agencies for more efficient
4 coordination.

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

8 "§346- Governor's coordinator on homelessness;
9 establishment; responsibilities. (a) There is established
10 within the department for administrative purposes only, a
11 governor's coordinator on homelessness to organize, manage, and
12 oversee the coordination of statewide efforts to end
13 homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall
14 report directly to the governor and shall:

15 (1) Serve as the principal officer in state government
16 responsible for the performance, development, and
17 oversight of programs, policies, and activities
18 relating to homelessness;

19 (2) Be responsible for ensuring the development,
20 implementation, and management of plans developed by.



1 the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness
2 pursuant to section 346-381;
3 (3) Coordinate with the homeless coordinator of each
4 county to ensure statewide coordination, minimize
5 duplication of efforts, and monitor and benchmark
6 progress on the mitigation and management of
7 homelessness in each county;
8 (4) Communicate with departments and agencies providing
9 rental subsidies and housing assistance; and
10 (5) Develop and implement plans to increase affordable
11 housing units through the identification of viable
12 lands and supporting housing projects to ensure
13 coordination and collaboration.
14 (b) The governor's coordinator on homelessness may:
15 (1) Employ persons exempt from chapters 76 and 89; and
16 (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the
17 purposes of this section.
18 (c) The office of the governor shall provide office space
19 to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and related staff;
20 provided that if the office of the governor is unable to provide
21 adequate office space, the department shall provide adequate



1 office space to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and
2 related staff."

3 SECTION 3. 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 2018-2019:

6 (1) To establish the governor's coordinator on
7 homelessness as a -time equivalent (FTE)
8 position; and

9 (2) For other expenses of the governor's coordinator on
10 homelessness, including hiring of necessary staff.

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

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; DHS; Establishment;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. Attaches the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, but requires the position to report to the Governor. Makes an appropriation. (SB2906 HD1)

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