A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronically unsheltered homeless per capita of any state. An estimated 6,530 people are living on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii. Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach using interventions that are targeted to the particular characteristics of the population being served. The state rent supplement for homeless families and individuals is critically necessary to address homelessness.

The state rent supplement program provides a "shallow", but sustained, subsidy to struggling households. Unlike the "deep" subsidy Housing Choice Voucher program, better known as the Section 8 program, which helps families at the lowest ends of the income scale by bridging a wide affordability gap between income and housing costs, the state rent supplement program helps households who are closer to financial self-sufficiency.
but still have a narrow affordability gap to fill. The state rent supplement program provides an ongoing subsidy, enabling homeless households or those at imminent risk of homelessness to close the affordability gap, maintain housing, and achieve self-sufficiency.

Because individual subsidies under state rent supplement programs are relatively low, the programs can resolve homelessness for a large number of individuals and families relative to the total cost of the subsidy program.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support the state rent supplement program.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $3,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the state rent supplement program established pursuant to section 356D-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.
SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Signatures]

JAN 24 2019
Report Title:
Housing; State Rent Supplement Program; Appropriation

Description:
Makes an appropriation for the state rent supplement program.

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