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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness and  
2 affordable housing are two of the most pressing problems facing  
3 Hawaii, especially for families with minor children. According  
4 to the 2018 Oahu Homeless Point-In-Time Count, there were four  
5 hundred seven sheltered and unsheltered homeless families on the  
6 island of Oahu, including eight hundred ninety-nine homeless  
7 minor children on Oahu as of January 22, 2018.

8           The legislature further finds that rental subsidies are  
9 critical to address one of the root causes of homelessness: the  
10 lack of affordable rentals. By increasing the State's  
11 investment in long-term, shallow rent subsidies, Hawaii can help  
12 vulnerable families out of homelessness and ensure that these  
13 families have greater housing stability. The department of  
14 human services is well-suited to administer a housing homeless  
15 children rental assistance pilot program to provide ongoing,  
16 shallow rental subsidies, which would move homeless families  
17 with children into stable housing. A requirement that



1 recipients of the rental assistance subsidies pursue evidence-  
2 based financial management and budget counseling services for  
3 the whole family, including children, will help these families  
4 achieve critical economic and housing stability now and in the  
5 future.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
7 department of human services to provide assistance through the  
8 establishment of a housing homeless children rental assistance  
9 pilot program that requires recipients of subsidies from the  
10 pilot program to obtain financial management and budget  
11 counseling services.

12 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall develop  
13 and establish a housing homeless children rental assistance  
14 pilot program to assist families with minor children  
15 experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to  
16 domestic violence with obtaining and maintaining permanent  
17 housing; provided that rental assistance shall be time-limited;  
18 provided further that each member of families receiving rental  
19 assistance, other than persons years of age or younger,  
20 shall be required to obtain financial management and budget



1 counseling services from a United States Department of Housing  
2 and Urban Development approved housing counseling agency.

3 For the purposes of this Act, rental assistance includes  
4 financial assistance for the payment of expenses related to  
5 relocating to and rent due to a landlord of residential  
6 property.

7 The department of human services shall adopt interim rules  
8 without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the  
9 purposes of this section.

10 SECTION 3. The department of human services may procure  
11 financial management and budget counseling services without  
12 regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from  
13 a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
14 approved housing counseling agency to assist families receiving  
15 rental assistance from the housing homeless children rental  
16 assistance pilot program in meeting the financial management and  
17 budget counseling requirement under section 2 of this Act;  
18 provided that the period of performance of contracts entered  
19 into pursuant to this section do not exceed the three year term  
20 of the pilot program.



1 SECTION 4. In carrying out the housing homeless children  
 2 rental assistance pilot program, the department of human  
 3 services shall participate in the Continuum of Care's  
 4 Coordinated Entry System for homeless services, and the  
 5 department of human services and housing counseling agencies  
 6 that provide financial management and budget counseling services  
 7 pursuant to section 3 of this Act shall input data into the  
 8 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's  
 9 Homeless Management Information System.

10 SECTION 5. The department of human services shall submit a  
 11 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
 12 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
 13 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

14 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 18 2020-2021 to:

- 19 (1) Establish a housing homeless children rental
- 20 assistance pilot program pursuant to section 2 of this
- 21 Act;



1           (2) Assist, through the pilot program, families with minor  
2           children experiencing, or at imminent risk of,  
3           homelessness due to domestic violence to obtain and  
4           maintain permanent housing through the payment of  
5           expenses for relocating to and rent due to a landlord  
6           of residential property; and

7           (3) Pay for administrative and personnel costs to operate  
8           the program.

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

11          SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Keiki Caucus; Department of Human Services; Housing Homeless Children Rental Assistance Pilot Program; Homelessness; Domestic Violence; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program to assist families with minor children experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence. Requires each family member to obtain financial management and budget counseling services. Requires the Department of Human Services to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry system for homeless services. Requires inputting of data into the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Requires report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

