
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. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2020-2021 to:

17 (1) Assist homeless families with minor children
18 experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due
19 to domestic violence to obtain and maintain permanent
20 housing by establishing a housing homeless children
21 rental assistance pilot program; and



1 (2) Pay for administrative and personnel costs to operate
2 the program.

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

5 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall develop
6 and establish a housing homeless children rental assistance
7 pilot program to assist homeless families with minor children
8 experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to
9 domestic violence with obtaining and maintaining permanent
10 housing; provided that rental assistance shall be time-limited;
11 provided further that each member of families receiving rental
12 assistance, other than persons years of age or younger,
13 shall be required to obtain financial management and budget
14 counseling services from a United States Department of Housing
15 and Urban Development approved housing counseling agency.

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

19 SECTION 4. The department of human services may procure
20 financial management and budget counseling services without
21 regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from



1 a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
2 approved housing counseling agency to assist families receiving
3 rental assistance from the housing homeless children rental
4 assistance pilot program in meeting the financial management and
5 budget counseling requirement under section 3 of this Act;
6 provided that the period of performance of contracts entered
7 into pursuant to this section do not exceed the three year term
8 of the pilot program.

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

18 SECTION 6. The department of human services shall submit a
19 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
20 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
21 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



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 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Requires report to the legislature. (SD1)

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