
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness is one
2 of the most pressing problems in Hawaii, and that a robust,
3 comprehensive, long-term solution is needed to address Hawaii's
4 affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

5 Nearly fifty years ago, in 1970, the State issued a report
6 stating that Hawaii had been experiencing a "serious housing
7 problem for many years" that had, by then, "become a crisis."
8 In the decades since, the problem has worsened. The number of
9 cost-burdened renters who pay more than thirty per cent of their
10 income for rent went from less than a quarter of the population
11 to more than one half. High housing costs have driven more and
12 more Hawaii residents into homelessness.

13 According to the United States Department of Housing and
14 Urban Development, on a single night in January 2018, California
15 and Hawaii had the highest rates of homelessness among all
16 individuals, with fifty-nine and fifty-eight out of every ten
17 thousand individuals, respectively, experiencing homelessness.



1 By making smart investments in homelessness programs and
2 housing, using data-driven practices, and improving
3 coordination, Hawaii has gradually begun to turn the tide on the
4 homelessness crisis. In 2017, Hawaii's homelessness rate went
5 down for the first time in eight years. In 2018, the
6 legislature made unprecedented levels of investment in low-
7 income housing and homelessness solutions, appropriating
8 \$200,000,000 for the rental housing revolving fund, \$30,000,000
9 for the ohana zones pilot program, and \$13,500,000 for other
10 homelessness programs.

11 The legislature finds that investments of this scale must
12 be made consistently in the coming years. Forty-seven per cent
13 of the housing demand is for Hawaii's households earning below
14 \$45,000 per year, while seventy-four per cent is for households
15 earning below \$75,000 per year. Appropriations that allow for
16 the rental housing revolving fund to be used to build housing at
17 these affordability levels are critically important. Funding
18 for this purpose needs to be steady, predictable, and long-term.

19 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
20 general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for capital



1 improvement projects consistent with the purposes of the rental
2 housing revolving fund.

3 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
4 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
6 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021
7 for deposit into the rental housing revolving fund, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the rental housing
10 revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund capital improvement
12 projects consistent with the purpose of the rental housing
13 revolving fund.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
15 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital
18 improvement projects authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
19 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
20 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
21 unencumbered as of June 30, 2022, shall lapse as of that date.



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



Report Title:

Rental Housing Revolving Fund; GO Bonds; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvement projects consistent with the purposes of the rental housing revolving fund. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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