
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

PART I

1
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
3 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
4 challenging social problems. The legislature further finds that
5 according to a recent report from the department of human
6 services, fourteen thousand two hundred homeless individuals
7 were serviced through shelter and outreach programs in the 2011
8 fiscal year. Within this group, 9,781 homeless individuals
9 resided in the city and county of Honolulu. The legislature
10 also finds that homeless service providers estimate that six
11 thousand homeless individuals in the State need shelter every
12 night.

13 The legislature also finds that homelessness is a complex
14 issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated efforts
15 at all levels. Homeless people face many different issues,
16 including mental illness, substance abuse, loss of employment
17 and income, and a lack of affordable housing. Appropriate



1 funding for programs tailored to address these issues is
2 essential.

3 The purpose of this part is to better assist individuals
4 facing or experiencing homelessness by funding various homeless
5 and housing programs.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
9 substance abuse treatment and mental health support services for
10 individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 health for the purposes of this part.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for clean
16 and sober housing support services to be administered by the
17 alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of health.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 health for the purposes of this part.

20 PART II

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a
2 rental assistance program, also known as the shallow subsidy
3 program, for homeless working individuals and their families who
4 are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain
5 permanent housing; provided that:

6 (1) The maximum subsidy shall be \$300 per month; provided
7 that in order to qualify for the subsidy, a household
8 shall pay a minimum of forty per cent of their
9 adjusted gross income for rent; and

10 (2) A household's adjusted gross income shall be
11 calculated in the same manner as calculated by the
12 Hawaii public housing authority to qualify for public
13 housing under the authority's control.

14 The sum appropriated for staff within the homeless programs
15 office and for program and administrative costs associated with
16 establishing and operating the shallow subsidy program shall be
17 expended by the department of human services through a contract
18 issued pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

19 PART III

20 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
21 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of
22 human services and the United State Department of Housing and



1 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
2 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have
3 substance addiction issues or mental illness, or both. The
4 principles of housing first programs include:

- 5 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
6 directly from the streets and shelters without a
7 precondition of accepting or complying with substance
8 abuse or mental health treatment;
- 9 (2) Providing robust support services for program
10 participants that are predicated on assertive
11 engagement rather than coercion;
- 12 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
13 program participants for housing first programs;
- 14 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions
15 rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
16 program participants to recovery; and
- 17 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
18 protections as provided by law.

19 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble
20 the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and
21 Urban Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans
22 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher



1 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to
2 the legislature, pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the
4 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements
5 plus support services through the shelter plus care and
6 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

7 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
8 department of human services to support the State's housing
9 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who
10 are most often the most vulnerable and difficult to serve.

11 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
14 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund,
15 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
16 continue the administration of housing first programs for
17 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

18 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
19 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
20 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the continued
21 administration of the housing first programs for chronically
22 homeless individuals in the State.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this part.

3 PART IV

4 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that the purpose of the
5 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's
6 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program is to
7 provide economically distressed households and individuals with
8 financial and other assistance to prevent them from becoming
9 homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be
10 quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds under this program
11 were intended to target individuals and families who would be
12 homeless but for this assistance.

13 The department of human services administers the
14 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide
15 homeless prevention and housing assistance to all eligible
16 individuals and households who apply through contracted
17 organizations. The funds from the program provide a variety of
18 assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental
19 assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, such
20 as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility payments,
21 moving cost assistance, and case management.



1 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
2 department of human services to provide homelessness prevention
3 and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible individuals and
4 households.

5 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
8 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.

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

11 PART V

12 SECTION 10. The shelter plus care program of the United
13 States Department of Housing and Urban Development provides
14 rental assistance in connection with other supportive services.
15 The program provides a variety of permanent housing choices,
16 accompanied by a range of supportive services funded through
17 other sources. The program assists hard-to-serve homeless
18 individuals with disabilities and their families. These
19 individuals primarily include those with serious mental illness,
20 chronic problems with alcohol and drugs, HIV, AIDS, or related
21 diseases.



1 There are four components to the shelter plus care program:
2 single room occupancy component – moderate rehabilitation for
3 single-room occupancy dwellings; sponsor-based rental assistance
4 component; project-based rental assistance component; and
5 tenant-based rental assistance component. Under all components,
6 supportive services must be available to meet the needs of
7 participants. Similar to many other federal programs, the
8 shelter plus care program has a match requirement. State
9 applicants must match the aggregate amount of shelter plus care
10 rental assistance with supportive services. This ensures that
11 appropriate and timely services will be available to meet the
12 needs of individual participants.

13 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for
14 the shelter plus care program.

15 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
18 matching funds for the shelter plus care program of the United
19 States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 human services for the purposes of this part.



PART VI

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2 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that many homeless
3 persons are known to thrive better when they have ready access
4 to familiar support groups or family members. In light of this
5 finding, the legislature enacted Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2013, which in part authorized the department of human services
7 to establish a return-to-home program. The intent of the
8 return-to-home program is to ensure that those individuals who
9 find themselves homeless in the islands are able to reconnect
10 with support networks ready and able to receive them.

11 The purpose of this part is to require the department of
12 human services to establish a three-year return-to-home program
13 for eligible homeless individuals.

14 SECTION 13. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, is
15 amended by amending section 13 to read as follows:

16 "SECTION 13. (a) The department of human services [~~may~~]
17 shall coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program
18 to be known as the return-to-home pilot program to provide
19 eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited
20 with family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
21 department [~~may~~] shall contract with eligible non-profit



1 organizations, for profit organizations, or foundations to
2 administer the pilot program.

3 (b) No individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
4 participate in the return-to-home pilot program unless:

5 (1) The individual's participation is completely
6 voluntary;

7 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
8 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
9 the court to participate in the pilot program; and

10 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
11 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
12 to the individual's home state.

13 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
14 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
15 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
16 shall be kept on file with the pilot program.

17 (d) The return-to-home pilot program shall actively seek
18 the participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
19 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
20 industry to coordinate and implement the pilot program.

21 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
22 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,



1 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
2 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
3 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

4 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
5 on December 31, [~~2016~~] 2017."

6 SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
9 implementation of the return-to-home pilot program, including
10 all program costs and hiring of necessary staff.

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

13 PART VII

14 SECTION 15. The legislature finds that homelessness
15 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
16 challenging social problems. The number of homeless persons in
17 the State, estimated to be approximately six thousand on any
18 given day, is indicative of the limited shelter space available.

19 The legislature further finds that new and innovative
20 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.
21 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political
22 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight

1 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.
2 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program
3 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking
4 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons
5 with vehicles.

6 Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a
7 homeless assistance working group to work within each local
8 neighborhood in each county to identify, plan, and implement
9 housing options for homeless individuals in each local community
10 that reflects shared responsibility for addressing homelessness
11 in Hawaii.

12 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
13 construction and demonstration of housing solutions related to
14 the finding and recommendations of the homeless assistance
15 working group.

16 SECTION 16. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
19 construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing
20 solutions as they relate to the homeless assistance working
21 group's findings and recommendations.



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

3 PART VIII

4 SECTION 17. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, is
5 amended by amending section 16 to read as follows:

6 "SECTION 16. (a) There is established [~~within the~~
7 ~~department of human services~~] a homeless assistance working
8 group. The purpose of the working group shall be to:

- 9 (1) Work within each local neighborhood in each county to
10 identify various private and public properties whose
11 owners are interested in partnering with the local
12 neighborhood and government to provide land or
13 structures that can be used to provide temporary homes
14 for homeless persons, including people who are living
15 in their motor vehicles;
- 16 (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office
17 and continuum of care providers to match homeless
18 persons in every community with appropriate care and
19 housing;
- 20 (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and
21 government agencies that may be willing to offer their
22 property for homeless persons living in their motor



- 1 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and
2 support to homeless persons;
- 3 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options
4 within each local community; and
- 5 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency
6 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.
- 7 (b) ~~[The director of human services, or a designee,]~~ The
8 chairpersons of the committees on human services of the senate
9 and the house of representatives shall convene the working group
10 and invite the following as members:
- 11 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;
- 12 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service
13 organizations, which may include:
- 14 (A) Community associations;
- 15 (B) Neighborhood boards; and
- 16 (C) Faith-based organizations;
- 17 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested
18 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,
19 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for
20 homeless persons;



- 1 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are
2 currently experiencing or formerly experienced
3 homelessness;
- 4 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 5 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,
6 development, and building industry;
- 7 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including
8 realtors and financial institutions;
- 9 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 10 (9) Representatives of legal services;
- 11 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
- 12 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city
13 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii
14 interagency council on homelessness and homeless
15 programs office administrator;
- 16 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected
17 officials; and
- 18 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.
- 19 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from
20 among themselves and serve without compensation.
- 21 (c) The working group shall convene within thirty days of
22 the effective date of this Act.



1 (d) The working group shall submit an interim report of
 2 its findings and recommendations, including the progress made to
 3 provide housing and support services, as appropriate, for
 4 homeless persons and any innovative temporary housing solutions,
 5 to the legislature no later than one hundred fifty days after
 6 the effective date of this Act.

7 (e) The homeless assistance working group shall dissolve
 8 on June 30, 2016."

9 PART IX

10 SECTION 18. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 19. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group;
Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to DOH and DHS for homelessness service programs. Mandates the establishment of the return-to-home program. Transfers administrative responsibility for the homeless assistance working group from DHS to the legislature. Requires chairpersons of the committees on human services of the senate and the house of representatives to convene the homeless assistance working group. (HB1842 HD1)

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

