
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 **PART I**

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, fourteen thousand two hundred
6 homeless individuals were served through shelter and outreach
7 programs in fiscal year 2011. Of these individuals, nine
8 thousand seven hundred eighty-one resided in the city and county
9 of Honolulu. The legislature also finds that homeless service
10 providers estimate that six thousand homeless people in the
11 State need shelter each night.

12 The legislature additionally finds that homelessness is a
13 complex issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated
14 efforts at all levels. The legislature also finds that homeless
15 persons face a myriad of issues, including mental illness,
16 substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of
17 affordable housing. Appropriate funding for programs and
18 services tailored to address these issues is essential.



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

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
21 the Hawaii public housing authority's rent supplement program to
22 assist families with very low incomes who could become homeless



1 without assistance; provided that a 0.75 full time equivalent
2 (0.75 FTE) position shall be established to administer the
3 current program; provided further that the 0.75 full time
4 equivalent position established pursuant to this section shall
5 be in addition to existing rent supplement program positions.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
7 housing authority for the purposes of this part.

8 **PART II**

9 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
10 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of
11 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
12 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
13 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an
14 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing
15 first programs include:

- 16 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
17 directly from streets and the shelters without a
18 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
- 19 (2) Providing robust support services for program
20 participants that are predicated on assertive
21 engagement rather than coercion;



1 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
2 program participants in housing first programs;

3 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions
4 rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
5 program participant commitments to recovery; and

6 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
7 protections as provided by law.

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

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

21 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
22 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be



1 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of human
2 services to continue to administer housing first programs for
3 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

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

6 **PART III**

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

16 The department of human services administers the
17 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide
18 homelessness prevention and housing assistance to all eligible
19 individuals and households who apply through contracted
20 organizations. The funds from the program provide for a variety
21 of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental
22 assistance and housing relocation, and stabilization services,



1 such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility
2 payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

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

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

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

13 **PART IV**

14 SECTION 10. The continuum of care permanent supportive
15 housing programs funded by the United States Department of
16 Housing and Urban Development provide rental assistance in
17 connection with supportive services. The programs provide a
18 variety of permanent housing choices, accompanied by a range of
19 supportive services funded through other sources. The programs
20 assist hard-to-serve homeless individuals with disabilities and
21 their families. These individuals primarily include those with



1 serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and drugs,
2 and HIV, AIDS, or related diseases.

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

16 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for
17 the continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs of
18 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

19 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
22 matching funds for the continuum of care permanent supportive



1 housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development.

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

5 **PART V**

6 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that homelessness
7 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
8 challenging social problems. The number of homeless persons in
9 the State, estimated to be approximately six thousand on any
10 given day, is indicative of the limited shelter space available.

11 The legislature further finds that new and innovative
12 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.
13 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political
14 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight
15 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.

16 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program
17 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking
18 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons
19 with vehicles.

20 Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a
21 homeless assistance working to group to work within each local
22 neighborhood in each county to identify, plan, and implement



1 housing options for homeless persons in each local community
2 that reflect shared responsibility for addressing homelessness
3 in Hawaii.

4 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
5 purchase and construction of housing solutions related to the
6 homeless assistance working group's findings and
7 recommendations.

8 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
11 the purchase and construction of innovative housing solutions
12 for homeless persons as they relate to the working group's
13 findings and recommendations; provided that:

- 14 (1) The purchase and construction of innovative housing
15 solutions pursuant to this section shall not be
16 subject to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- 17 (2) The housing created pursuant to this section shall be
18 ready for use and fully occupied by December 1, 2014.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
20 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
21 this part.



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PART VI

SECTION 14. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section 16, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

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

- (1) Work within each local neighborhood in each county to identify various private and public properties whose owners are interested in partnering with the local neighborhood and government to provide land or structures that can be used to provide temporary homes for homeless persons, including people who are living in their motor vehicles;
- (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office and continuum of care providers to match homeless persons in every community with appropriate care and housing;
- (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies that may be willing to offer their 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 senate and house of representatives
9 committees on human services shall convene the working group and
10 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."



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PART VII

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SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

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and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates unspecified amounts to various programs that provide housing, housing assistance, and supportive services to individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Amends structure and composition of homelessness working group. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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