
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
5 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
7 \$1,064,767,367 or 11.0 per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, and this
10 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
11 expenditure ceiling are that:

12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and

14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that homelessness is one
17 of the most pressing problems in Hawaii and requires a robust,
18 comprehensive, long-term solution to address the State's



1 affordable housing and homelessness crisis. One important
2 component of the solution is ensuring that low-income kupuna are
3 not forced into homelessness through a combination of fixed
4 incomes and rapidly rising rents.

5 The legislature further finds that, over the last fifty
6 years, the number of cost-burdened renters, or those paying more
7 than thirty per cent of their income for rent, has significantly
8 increased. Today, almost half of all renters in the State pay
9 more than thirty per cent of their income for rent. High
10 housing costs have driven more and more Hawaii residents into
11 homelessness, and now the homelessness rate per capita in Hawaii
12 is among the highest in the nation.

13 The legislature additionally finds that, by making smart
14 investments in homelessness and housing, using data-driven
15 practices, and improving coordination, Hawaii has gradually
16 begun to turn the tide in the homelessness crisis. In 2017,
17 Hawaii's homelessness rate went down for the first time in
18 years, a trend that continued in 2018. During the regular
19 session of 2018, the legislature made unprecedented investments
20 in low-income housing and homelessness, appropriating
21 \$200,000,000 for the rental housing revolving fund, \$30,000,000



1 for ohana zones, and \$13,500,000 for proven-effective and
2 promising homelessness programs.

3 The legislature also finds that, to turn back fifty years
4 of growth in Hawaii's housing and homelessness crisis,
5 investments of this scale must be made consistently in the
6 coming years. Hawaii must prioritize programs that are the most
7 cost-effective and protect the most vulnerable populations,
8 including the State's kupuna. The 2017 Hawaii Homeless Service
9 Utilization Report found that there are 1,386 homeless elders in
10 the State. Many more elders face homelessness as rents
11 skyrocket. Due to elders' fixed incomes, a state rent
12 supplement program for kupuna is needed to expand on the
13 existing state rent supplement program administered by the
14 Hawaii public housing authority.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to temporarily
16 expand the state rent supplement program specifically for
17 qualified kupuna who are sixty-two years of age or older and are
18 homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, and to
19 appropriate funds for this purpose.



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§356D- State rent supplement program for kupuna. (a)

5 There is established the state rent supplement program for
6 kupuna to be administered by the authority to provide state rent
7 supplement assistance and other services to qualified kupuna
8 under this section.

9 (b) The authority shall:

10 (1) Provide state rent supplement assistance to qualified
11 kupuna;

12 (2) Provide housing counseling to assist qualified kupuna
13 in obtaining or retaining permanent housing; and

14 (3) Coordinate with mental health services providers and
15 other supportive services providers to assist
16 qualified kupuna.

17 (c) The authority may enter into memoranda of agreement
18 with the counties or specialized nonprofit organizations as
19 necessary to implement this section.

20 (d) The authority, without regard to chapter 91, shall
21 establish rules and any additional qualification standards



1 specifically for recipients of the state rent supplement program
2 for kupuna.

3 (e) The authority shall submit to the legislature an
4 annual report of its findings and recommendations regarding the
5 state rent supplement program for kupuna, including any proposed
6 legislation, no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
7 each regular session.

8 (f) As used in this section, "qualified kupuna" means a
9 person who:

- 10 (1) Is sixty-two years of age or older;
11 (2) Is homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless;
12 and
13 (3) Otherwise meets the requirements for a qualified
14 tenant under section 356D-153."

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the
18 state rent supplement program for kupuna established under
19 section 356D- , Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that any
20 funds appropriated under this section shall be in addition to



1 the base budget of the Hawaii public housing authority for the
2 state rent supplement program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
4 housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, and
7 shall be repealed on June 30, 2026.



Report Title:

HPHA; State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna; Reports;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Temporarily expands the State Rent Supplement Program specifically for qualified persons who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to submit annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2026. (CD1)

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

