

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO REPAIR EMPTY STATE HOUSING UNITS AND
TO PROVIDE RENTAL SUBSIDIES FOR LOW-INCOME UNITS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the lack of
2 affordable housing is a primary cause of homelessness.
3 Currently, there are estimated to be over six thousand homeless
4 persons in Hawaii on any given day, and over fourteen thousand
5 six hundred last year who were homeless at one point or another.
6 In the past four years, the number of homeless in Hawaii has
7 nearly doubled.

8 Families are losing their homes at unprecedented rates and
9 are being forced to live a life of poverty. Many have poor
10 access to medical services, difficulty finding work, and paying
11 for food and child care. As a result, children do not receive
12 the proper care, immunizations, and nourishment needed to
13 sustain a healthy quality of life. Additionally, their
14 physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral
15 developments are all negatively affected. Many homeless
16 children who end up in the foster care system, or who experience



1 long-term homelessness, often end up being homeless themselves
2 when they reach adulthood.

3 Many homeless suffer extreme hardships, such as a loss of
4 self-esteem, behavioral problems, a lack of education, becoming
5 victims of violence and sexual assault, becoming
6 institutionalized, deteriorating in both mental and physical
7 health, and in some cases, ending up in death. Twenty-five to
8 thirty per cent suffer from chronic mental illness, thirty-five
9 to forty per cent suffer from alcohol and drug abuse, and a
10 growing percentage become HIV positive from the hard life they
11 live on the streets.

12 There are about twelve thousand individuals each year who
13 seek help from the Hawaii public housing administration, many of
14 who are denied help due to lack of Hawaii public housing
15 administration resources. With over nine thousand people on the
16 waiting list for housing, the Hawaii public housing
17 administration has stopped accepting applicants. The average
18 waiting period is estimated to be anywhere from two to seven
19 years; in the mean time, many people are suffering in
20 homelessness.



1 The legislature believes that, to prevent many of the
2 problems associated with homelessness, the State must make more
3 housing available to low-income families.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$8,000,000, or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
7 the repair of empty state housing units and to provide rental
8 subsidies for low-income individuals.

9 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
10 Hawaii public housing administration for the purposes of this
11 Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

13

INTRODUCED BY: 

By Request



SB 2439

Report Title:

Housing; Low-Income; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the repair of empty state housing units and provide rental subsidies for low-income individuals.

