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## 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 Native Hawaiians  
2 constitute a substantial percentage of homeless persons in  
3 Hawaii. There is an immediate need for a coordinated effort to  
4 combat homelessness among Native Hawaiians. The purpose of this  
5 Act is to convene and fund a task force to investigate and make  
6 recommendations for actions to be taken to significantly reduce  
7 homelessness among Native Hawaiians. The task force shall  
8 document, to the extent possible, the current status of  
9 homelessness among Native Hawaiians in the State, and explore  
10 certain areas for possible action.

11           SECTION 2. (a) There is established the task force on  
12 homelessness among Native Hawaiians, within the office of  
13 Hawaiian affairs for administrative purposes only.

14           (b) The task force shall be comprised of nineteen members  
15 to be appointed by the administrator without regard to section  
16 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the administrator  
17 shall make reasonable efforts to include in the task force

18 members that represent a mix of entities that serve Native



1 Hawaiians who are homeless, entities that have knowledge about  
2 homelessness among Native Hawaiians, and geographical locations.

3 (c) The task force shall convene subcommittees that  
4 address each of the following topics:

- 5 (1) The nature, extent, patterns, and circumstances of  
6 homelessness among Native Hawaiians in the State;
- 7 (2) Methods for increasing the availability of, and access  
8 to, low-income rental housing for Native Hawaiians;
- 9 (3) Potential areas for greater county involvement in  
10 addressing homelessness among Native Hawaiians;
- 11 (4) The development of approaches to homelessness that are  
12 culturally appropriate to certain communities and that  
13 do not simply rely on building large shelters; and
- 14 (5) Techniques for identifying and supporting those  
15 homeless Native Hawaiians who are in the best position  
16 to transition out of shelters into more suitable  
17 housing accommodations.

18 Each subcommittee shall include and obtain input from  
19 stakeholders, qualified individuals with knowledge, expertise,  
20 and experience in the relevant fields pertaining to the specific  
21 topic, and any other individuals as may be determined necessary  
22 by the task force.



1           (d) The task force shall consider each subcommittee's  
2 recommendations and propose a plan for reducing homelessness  
3 among Native Hawaiians.

4           (e) In carrying out its duties under this section, the  
5 task force on homelessness among Native Hawaiians may request  
6 staff assistance from the office of Hawaiian affairs and other  
7 appropriate state departments and agencies. The task force may  
8 contract with or hire a private consultant, who shall be exempt  
9 from chapters 76, 78, and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or  
10 consulting firm to assist the task force in performing its  
11 duties as provided in this Act.

12           (f) The task force on homelessness shall be exempt from  
13 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the task  
14 force shall make a good faith effort to make its proceedings and  
15 work products accessible and available to the general public in  
16 a manner consistent with the intent of chapter 92, Hawaii  
17 Revised Statutes.

18           (g) The task force shall be exempt from the requirements  
19 of chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

20           (h) Each of the nineteen members of the task force shall  
21 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,



1 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of  
2 their duties.

3 (i) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
4 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
6 the regular session of 2010. The task force shall continue  
7 until terminated by the office of Hawaiian affairs.

8 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, "Native Hawaiians"  
9 means persons who are native Hawaiian or Hawaiian as defined in  
10 section 10-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

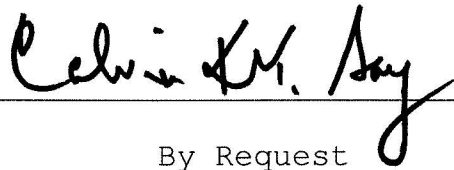
11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 for the  
14 task force on homelessness among Native Hawaiians.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
16 Hawaiian affairs for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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By Request

JAN 26 2009



**Report Title:**

Native Hawaiians; Homelessness

**Description:**

Establishes a task force on homelessness among Native Hawaiians.

