
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many homeless
2 persons in the State are presently stranded in the State, are
3 separated from their families and relatives in their home state,
4 but lack independent financial resources for reuniting with
5 those family members.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish a return-to-home
7 program for the homeless.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new subpart to part VII to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 " RETURN-TO-HOME PROGRAM

12 §356D- Return-to-home program. (a) There is
13 established within the authority a voluntary homeless assistance
14 program to be known as the return-to-home program, to provide
15 the eligible homeless with assistance in being reunited with
16 their families and relatives in the person's home state. The
17 authority shall administer the program and adopt the standards
18 and framework necessary to implement the program.



1 (b) No person who is homeless shall be eligible to

2 participate in the program unless:

3 (1) The person's participation is completely voluntary;

4 (2) The person has a support system in place in the
5 person's home state that is willing to receive and
6 accommodate the person;

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

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

13 (c) The authority shall actively seek the participation of
14 local airlines, cruise lines, charter companies, homeless
15 programs, travel agencies, and the visitor industry to implement
16 and coordinate the program.

17 (d) The authority shall also assist program participants
18 with necessary and proper preparations for the return trip,
19 including proper identification, orientation relating to airport
20 security, and the basics of personal care, and shall follow up
21 with them within one month of their return to their home state



1 to assess their efforts at successful reunification with their
2 families and relatives."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2010-2011 for implementing the costs of the return-to-home
8 program, including program costs and the hiring of necessary
9 staff.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
11 public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Homeless; Return Home

Description:

Assists the homeless in reuniting with their families.

