

JAN 22 2010

S.B. NO. 2439

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Housing first, also known as rapid re-housing,
2 is a recent innovation in human service programs regarding the
3 treatment of the homeless. Housing first is an alternative to a
4 system of emergency shelters and transitional housing
5 progressions. Rather than moving homeless individuals through
6 different levels of housing on the way to independent living,
7 housing first moves homeless individuals immediately to their
8 own apartments. By creating a stable housing environment, other
9 issues can be addressed that impact the household including
10 employment, job training, and health care.

11 Homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless,
12 those with disabilities that include addictions and mental
13 illnesses, are extremely fragile. Chronically homeless
14 individuals are the least likely of the homeless population to
15 ever reach independent living.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a five-year housing
17 first pilot program to address the chronically homeless
18 population.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§184- Parks for homeless special fund. (a) There is
5 established in the state treasury the parks for homeless special
6 fund, into which shall be deposited moneys designated by law."

7 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii public housing authority and
8 the department of human services shall develop a housing first
9 pilot program. The Hawaii public housing authority and the
10 department of human services shall consult with the United
11 States Department of Housing and Urban Development and community
12 housing and homeless groups in the development process of the
13 housing first pilot program.

14 (b) The housing first pilot program shall be developed
15 according to the principles of housing first, specifically
16 including:

- 17 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
18 directly from streets and shelters, without
19 preconditions of treatment acceptance or compliance;
- 20 (2) Providing robust support services for program
21 participants, predicated on assertive engagement
22 instead of coercion;



- 1 (3) Continued tenancy shall not be dependent on
- 2 participation in services;
- 3 (4) Selecting chronically homeless individuals as program
- 4 participants for the purpose of the pilot program, a
- 5 chronically homeless individual means a homeless
- 6 person who has an addiction or mental illness, or
- 7 both;
- 8 (5) Embracing a harm reduction approach to addictions,
- 9 rather than mandating abstinence, and supporting
- 10 program participant commitments to recovery; and
- 11 (6) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
- 12 protections under the law.

13 The Hawaii public housing authority and department of human
14 services may contract with housing first consultants as
15 necessary.

16 (b) When developing the housing first pilot program, the
17 Hawaii public housing authority and the department of human
18 services shall incorporate the following:

- 19 (1) Identification of target populations, specifically the
- 20 chronically homeless who have an addiction or mental
- 21 illness disability, or both;



1 (2) Developing assessments for the chronically homeless
2 population;

3 (3) Developing service components of the housing first
4 pilot program, including:

5 (A) Financial assistance;

6 (B) In-home case management services;

7 (C) Affordable housing requirements;

8 (D) Landlord cultivation;

9 (E) Housing placement requirements; and

10 (F) Support services for the purpose of moving
11 program participants to self-sufficiency and
12 independence.

13 (c) The housing first pilot program shall establish a goal
14 of having at least fifty participants.

15 SECTION 4. Beginning with the regular session of 2011, the
16 Hawaii public housing authority with the assistance of the
17 department of human services shall submit an interim annual
18 report to the legislature on the progress of the housing first
19 pilot program no later than twenty days prior to the regular
20 session. After the final year of the housing first pilot
21 program a final annual report shall be submitted to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the regular
2 session of 2016, to include:

3 (1) Total number of participants in the housing first
4 pilot program;

5 (2) Annual costs of the program;

6 (3) Types of support services offered;

7 (4) Number of participants, including information
8 regarding the duration of services required for each
9 individual; and

10 (5) Recommendations for the continuation of the project.

11 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the parks for
12 homeless special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
13 may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the housing first
14 pilot program.

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

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010, and
18 shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.

19

INTRODUCED BY: Norman Sakuma



Report Title:

Housing First Pilot Program

Description:

Establishes a 5-year housing first pilot program to be developed by the Hawaii public housing authority and the department of human services for homeless individuals who are chronically addicted or mentally ill.

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