
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 are presently stranded in the state and are separated
3 from their families and relatives in their home state but lack
4 independent financial resources to reunite with those family
5 members. Adopting a return-to-home program would address this
6 pressing social issue. There are similar return-to-home
7 programs in other jurisdictions. New York City, for example,
8 adopted a return-to-home program for those people who were
9 identified as homeless for over one year.

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

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

15 "§184- Parks for homeless special fund. (a) There is
16 established in the state treasury, the parks for homeless
17 special fund, into which shall be deposited moneys designated by
18 law."



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

4 " . Return-To-Home Program

5 §356D- Return-to-home program. (a) There is
6 established within the authority a voluntary homeless assistance
7 program to be known as the return-to-home program, to provide
8 eligible homeless persons with assistance in being reunited with
9 their families and relatives in the person's home state. The
10 authority shall administer the program and adopt the standards
11 and framework necessary to implement the program.

12 (b) No person who is homeless shall be eligible to
13 participate in the program unless:

- 14 (1) The person's participation is completely voluntary;
- 15 (2) The person has a support system in place in the
16 person's home state that is willing to receive and
17 accommodate the person;
- 18 (3) The person, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
19 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
20 the court to participate in the program;



1 (4) The person is indigent and lacks the financial
2 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
3 to the person's home state; and

4 (5) The person has been determined by the authority to be
5 homeless for over one year.

6 (c) The authority shall actively seek the participation of
7 local airlines, cruise lines, charter companies, homeless
8 programs, travel agencies, and the visitor industry to implement
9 and coordinate the program.

10 (d) The authority shall also assist program participants
11 with necessary and proper preparations for the return trip,
12 including proper identification, orientation relating to airport
13 security, and the basics of personal care, and shall follow up
14 with them within one month of their return to their home state
15 to assess their efforts at successful reunification with their
16 families and relatives."

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the parks for
18 homeless special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as
19 may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for implementing the
20 costs of the return-to-home program, including program costs and
21 the hiring of necessary staff.



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

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

John M. Mignone
John M. Mignone
John M. Mignone
John M. Mignone
John M. Mignone

JAN 21 2010



Report Title:

Homeless; Return to Home

Description:

Assists the homeless in reuniting with their families. Creates the parks for homeless special fund.

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

