
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 meant to assist
3 homeless individuals. 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 their 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 that affect the household can be addressed, including
10 employment, job training, and health care.

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

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a housing first
17 special fund to provide housing first programs and services and
18 to authorize the Hawaii public housing authority to implement



1 housing first programs and services, as the authority deems
2 appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit and
3 succeed from housing first programs and services, and subject to
4 the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund
5 moneys.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§356D- Housing first special fund. (a) There is
10 established in the state treasury the housing first special
11 fund, into which shall be deposited appropriations by the
12 legislature to the special fund and gifts, donations, and grants
13 from public agencies and private persons.

14 Each county may provide matching funds, which shall be
15 deposited into the housing first special fund.

16 (b) Moneys in the housing first special fund shall be
17 administered by the Hawaii public housing authority and shall be
18 used to provide housing first programs and services."

19 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii public housing authority, in
20 collaboration with the department of human services and
21 consultation with the United States Department of Housing and
22 Urban Development, as necessary, may implement housing first.



1 programs and services, as the authority deems appropriate for
2 clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from the
3 implementation of housing first programs and services, and
4 subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first
5 special fund moneys.

6 (b) The principles of housing first include:

- 7 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
8 directly from streets and shelters, without a
9 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
10 provided that continued tenancy through a housing
11 first program may be dependent on participation in
12 treatment services;
- 13 (2) Providing robust support services for program
14 participants, predicated on assertive engagement
15 instead of coercion;
- 16 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
17 program participants in housing first programs;
- 18 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions,
19 rather than mandating abstinence, while supporting
20 program-participant commitments to recovery; and
- 21 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
22 protections as provided by law.



1 The Hawaii public housing authority, in collaboration with
2 the department of human services, may contract with housing
3 first consultants to effectuate the purpose of this Act.

4 (c) Housing first programs shall incorporate the
5 following:

- 6 (1) Identification of target populations, specifically
7 chronically homeless individuals;
- 8 (2) Developing assessments for the chronically homeless
9 population;
- 10 (3) Developing service components, including:
 - 11 (A) Financial assistance;
 - 12 (B) In-home case management services;
 - 13 (C) Affordable-housing requirements;
 - 14 (D) Landlord cultivation;
 - 15 (E) Housing-placement requirements; and
 - 16 (F) Support services to move program participants
17 toward self-sufficiency.

18 SECTION 4. As used in this Act, "chronically homeless
19 individual" means a homeless individual who has an addiction,
20 mental illness, or both an addiction and mental illness.

21 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.
3



Report Title:

HPHA; Housing First Special Fund; Housing First Principles

Description:

Establishes the housing first special fund. Authorizes the Hawaii public housing authority to implement housing first programs and services, as the authority deems appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from housing first programs, and subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund moneys. Takes effect 7/1/2020 and sunsets 7/30/2016. (SD1)

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

