
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 homelessness is a
2 societal problem that has plagued Hawaii and the nation for many
3 years. Although great strides have been made in addressing the
4 issue of homelessness, Hawaii has experienced an increase in the
5 number of homeless persons. Homelessness remains a complex
6 issue involving coordination, planning, implementation, and
7 funding among state and county agencies, non-profit entities,
8 and the federal government.

9 On June 22, 2010, the cabinet secretaries from the federal
10 Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Health and
11 Human Services, and Veterans Affairs joined the United States
12 Interagency Council on Homelessness to unveil and submit to the
13 President and Congress the nation's first comprehensive
14 strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. The United
15 States Interagency Council on Homelessness comprises nineteen
16 federal agencies to coordinate the nation's housing, health,
17 employment security, education, and human services functions and
18 to create a national partnership between every level of



1 government and the private sector to maximize the effectiveness
2 of the federal government's response in addressing homelessness.

3 Described by the federal government as the most far-
4 reaching and ambitious program in history to prevent and end
5 homelessness, the strategic plan will strengthen existing
6 programs and forge new partnerships. Working together with
7 Congress, state and local officials, faith-based and community
8 organizations, and business and philanthropic leaders across the
9 country, the plan will harness public and private resources to
10 build on proven local level innovations.

11 The legislature finds that Hawaii must have in place a
12 mechanism similar to the United States Interagency Council on
13 Homelessness to formulate and coordinate a unified plan to
14 address homelessness in all counties and facilitate the
15 acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs. The
16 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommends
17 that the states establish such a state agency whether by
18 legislative action or executive order, or both.

19 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii
20 interagency council on homelessness.

21 SECTION 2. There is established the Hawaii interagency
22 council on homelessness, which shall be an advisory body exempt



1 from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Hawaii
2 interagency council on homelessness shall be under the
3 department of human services for administrative purposes. The
4 director of human services shall serve as the ad hoc coordinator
5 of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness. The members
6 of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall serve
7 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
8 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
9 their duties.

10 The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall be
11 responsible for organizing its member entities to formulate and
12 coordinate a unified plan to address homelessness in all
13 counties and facilitate the acquisition of federal funding for
14 homeless programs.

15 SECTION 3. The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness
16 shall be composed of at least one representative from each of
17 the following offices:

- 18 (1) The office of the governor, to be designated by the
19 governor;
- 20 (2) The senate, to be designated by the president of the
21 senate;



- 1 (3) The house of representatives, to be designated by the
2 speaker of the house of representatives;
- 3 (4) The benefit, employment, and support services division
4 of the department of human services, to be designated
5 by the director of human services;
- 6 (5) The homeless programs office of the department of
7 human services, to be designated by the director of
8 human services;
- 9 (6) The Hawaii public housing authority, to be designated
10 by the director of human services;
- 11 (7) The Hawaii housing finance and development
12 corporation, to be designated by the director of
13 business, economic development, and tourism;
- 14 (8) The Hawaii community development authority, to be
15 designated by the director of business, economic
16 development, and tourism;
- 17 (9) The adult mental health division of the department of
18 health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 19 (10) The alcohol and drug abuse division of the department
20 of health, to be designated by the director of health;



- 1 (11) The intake service center division of the department
2 of public safety, to be designated by the director of
3 public safety;
- 4 (12) The workforce development division of the department
5 of labor and industrial relations, to be designated by
6 the director of labor and industrial relations;
- 7 (13) The department of education employee or designee who
8 is responsible for the administration of the McKinney-
9 Vento Homeless Assistance Act, to be designated by the
10 superintendent of education;
- 11 (14) The Hawaii head start program of the department of
12 human services, to be designated by the director of
13 human services;
- 14 (15) The homeless programs of the United States Department
15 of Veterans Affairs, to be designated by the head of
16 the Hawaii office of the United States Department of
17 Veterans Affairs;
- 18 (16) The center on the family at the University of Hawaii;
- 19 (17) The Office of Community Planning and Development of
20 the United States Department of Housing and Urban
21 Development, to be designated by the director of the
22 Hawaii office of the Office of Community Planning and



- 1 Development of the United States Department of Housing
2 and Urban Development;
- 3 (18) The mayor of each county or the mayor's designee, who
4 shall be responsible for the administration of
5 homeless and housing programs for that county;
- 6 (19) The director or head of the continuum of care
7 collaboration of each county, as follows:
- 8 (A) Maui homeless alliance;
- 9 (B) Community action partners (Hawaii county);
- 10 (C) Partners in care (city and county of Honolulu);
- 11 and
- 12 (D) Kauai community alliance;
- 13 (20) The Hawaii Association of Realtors, to be designated
14 by the president of the Hawaii Association of
15 Realtors;
- 16 (21) A community health center that provides services to
17 the homeless;
- 18 (22) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, to be
19 designated by the bishop of Honolulu; and
- 20 (23) The executive director of the Office for Social
21 Ministry, Big Island Branch.



1 SECTION 4. (a) The Hawaii interagency council on
2 homelessness shall have the duties as provided in this section;
3 provided that the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness
4 shall have the discretion to prioritize the duties, adapt or
5 modify any duty to the circumstances, and refrain from
6 exercising any duty if changing circumstances make the duty no
7 longer necessary or if a particular duty conflicts with another
8 law or duty of another agency; provided further that the Hawaii
9 interagency council on homelessness shall endeavor to coordinate
10 the duties, responsibilities, and functions of all members of
11 the council.

12 (b) The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall:

- 13 (1) Replicate the functions of the United States
14 Interagency Council on Homelessness, to the extent
15 possible in this State;
- 16 (2) Serve as the sole statewide homelessness planning and
17 policy development resource; provided that county
18 homelessness programs shall not be excluded;
- 19 (3) Develop a ten-year plan to end homelessness with
20 emphasis on ending chronic homelessness, including:
- 21 (A) Articulating a strategy for successful
22 implementation of the ten-year plan and ensuring



- 1 accountability and achieving results in the
2 implementation; and
- 3 (B) Recommending policy, regulatory, and resource
4 allocations needed to successfully accomplish the
5 ten-year plan;
- 6 (4) Develop short- and long-term statewide strategies and
7 plans to end homelessness with an emphasis on
8 eliminating chronic homelessness within ten years
9 following the effective date of this Act;
- 10 (5) Partner with counties to identify resources and common
11 strategies to end homelessness;
- 12 (6) Seek to coordinate activities of statewide continuum
13 of care collaboration entities;
- 14 (7) Assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information
15 and research and data to support policy development
16 and to track outcomes;
- 17 (8) Establish priorities based upon the ten-year plan to
18 end homelessness;
- 19 (9) Recommend interagency strategies including funding,
20 homelessness prevention, and discharge planning;
- 21 (10) Review all state activities and programs to assist
22 homeless persons;



- 1 (11) Support and replicate collaborative state homelessness
2 initiatives of other states that demonstrate
3 measurable outcomes;
- 4 (12) Promote systems integration of health services and
5 housing to reduce duplication among homeless
6 assistance programs;
- 7 (13) Identify funding opportunities, including mainstream
8 resources for homeless persons;
- 9 (14) Involve non-traditional stakeholders, including
10 representatives from corporations; business,
11 philanthropic, and faith-based organizations; and
12 other community institutions;
- 13 (15) Recommend to the legislature statutory changes and
14 recommend to the executive departments regulatory
15 changes to enhance the successful implementation of
16 this Act;
- 17 (16) Communicate problems and concerns relating to homeless
18 persons to the appropriate state or county agencies;
- 19 (17) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, each
20 county mayor, and each county council on the progress
21 of creating and implementing a ten-year plan to end
22 homelessness;



1 (18) Conduct a public education program on homelessness;

2 (19) Disseminate information, including data and best
3 practices, to state and county officials and to the
4 public regarding issues related to homelessness; and

5 (20) Host or cause to be conducted an annual homelessness
6 conference.

7 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act is found to be in
8 conflict with a federal requirement, the federal requirement
9 shall prevail and the provision shall be deemed to be amended to
10 conform to the federal requirement.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
12



Report Title:

Homelessness; Interagency Council; Department of Human Services

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness, under the department of human services for administrative purposes. (SD2)

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

