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## 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 job, education, and human services and to create a national  
18 partnership between every level of government and the private



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

3 Described by the federal government as the most  
4 far-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 on 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 and to make an appropriation  
21 for its administrative expenses.



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

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

17           SECTION 3. The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness  
18 shall be composed of at least one representative from each of  
19 the following offices, departments, agencies, entities, service  
20 providers, or their successors, or types of service:

21           (1) Office of the governor, to be designated by the  
22                 governor;



- 1           (2) Services for benefit, employment, and support of the  
2           department of human services, to be designated by the  
3           director of human services;
- 4           (3) Homeless programs of the department of human services,  
5           to be designated by the director of human services;
- 6           (4) Adult mental health services of the department of  
7           health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 8           (5) Alcohol and drug abuse services of the department of  
9           health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 10          (6) Intake services of the department of public safety, to  
11          be designated by the director of public safety;
- 12          (7) The workforce development program of the department of  
13          labor and industrial relations, to be designated by  
14          the director of labor and industrial relations;
- 15          (8) The department of education employee or designee who  
16          is responsible for the administration of the McKinney-  
17          Vento Homeless Assistance Act, to be designated by the  
18          superintendent of education;
- 19          (9) The Hawaii head start program of the department of  
20          human services, to be designated by the director of  
21          human services;



- 1           (10) The homeless programs of the United States Department  
2                   of Veterans Affairs, to be designated by the head of  
3                   the Hawaii office of the United States Department of  
4                   Veterans Affairs;
- 5           (11) The center on the family at the University of Hawaii;
- 6           (12) The Office of Community Planning and Development of  
7                   the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
8                   Development, to be designated by the director of the  
9                   Hawaii office of the Office of Community Planning and  
10                  Development of the United States Department of Housing  
11                  and Urban Development;
- 12          (13) The mayor of each county or the mayor's designee, who  
13                  shall be responsible for the administration of  
14                  homeless and housing programs for that county;
- 15          (14) The director or head of the continuum of care  
16                  collaboration of each county, as follows:
- 17                  (A) Maui homeless alliance;
- 18                  (B) Community action partners (Hawaii county);
- 19                  (C) Partners in care (city and county of Honolulu);
- 20                  and
- 21                  (D) Kauai community alliance;



1 (15) A community health center that provides services to  
2 the homeless;

3 (16) The Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, to be designated by  
4 the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu; and

5 (17) The executive director of the Office for Social  
6 Ministry Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, Big Island  
7 Branch;

8 In addition, one senator to be selected by the president of the  
9 senate and one representative to be selected by the speaker of  
10 the house of representatives shall be members of the Hawaii  
11 interagency council on homelessness.

12 SECTION 4. (a) The Hawaii interagency council on  
13 homelessness shall have the duties as provided in this section;  
14 provided that the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness  
15 shall have the discretion to prioritize the duties, adapt or  
16 modify any duty to the circumstances, and refrain from  
17 exercising any duty if changing circumstances make the duty no  
18 longer necessary, or if a particular duty conflicts with another  
19 law or duty of another agency; provided further that the Hawaii  
20 interagency council on homelessness shall endeavor to coordinate  
21 the duties, responsibilities, and function of all members of the  
22 council.



- 1 (b) The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall:
- 2 (1) Replicate the functions of the United States
- 3 Interagency Council on Homelessness, to the extent
- 4 possible in this State;
- 5 (2) Serve as the sole statewide homelessness planning and
- 6 policy development resource; provided that county
- 7 homelessness programs shall not be excluded;
- 8 (3) Develop a ten-year plan to end homelessness with
- 9 emphasis on ending chronic homelessness, including:
- 10 (A) Articulating a strategy for successful
- 11 implementation of the ten-year plan and ensuring
- 12 accountability and achieving results in the
- 13 implementation; and
- 14 (B) Recommending policy, regulatory, and resource
- 15 allocations needed to successfully accomplish the
- 16 ten-year plan;
- 17 (4) Develop short- and long-term statewide strategies and
- 18 plans to end homelessness with an emphasis on
- 19 eliminating chronic homelessness within ten years
- 20 following the effective date of this Act;
- 21 (5) Partner with counties to identify resources and common
- 22 strategies to end homelessness;



- 1       (6) Seek to coordinate activities of statewide continuum  
2           of care collaboration entities;
- 3       (7) Assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information  
4           and research and data to support policy development  
5           and to track outcomes;
- 6       (8) Establish priorities based upon the ten-year plan to  
7           end homelessness;
- 8       (9) Recommend interagency strategies including funding,  
9           homelessness prevention, and discharge planning;
- 10      (10) Review all state activities and programs to assist  
11          homeless persons;
- 12      (11) Support and replicate collaborative state homelessness  
13          initiatives of other states that demonstrate  
14          measurable outcomes;
- 15      (12) Promote systems integration of health services and  
16          housing to reduce duplication among homeless  
17          assistance programs;
- 18      (13) Identify funding opportunities, including mainstream  
19          resources for homeless persons;
- 20      (14) Involve non-traditional stakeholders, including  
21          representatives from corporations, business,





1 philanthropic, faith-based organizations, and other  
2 community institutions;

3 (15) Recommend to the legislature statutory changes and  
4 recommend to the executive departments regulatory  
5 changes to enhance the successful implementation of  
6 this Act;

7 (16) Communicate problems and concerns relating to homeless  
8 persons to the appropriate state or county agencies;

9 (17) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, each  
10 county mayor, and each county council on the progress  
11 of creating and implementing a ten-year plan to end  
12 homelessness;

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

14 (19) Disseminate information, including data and best  
15 practices, to state and county officials and to the  
16 public regarding issues related to homelessness; and

17 (20) Host or cause to be conducted an annual homelessness  
18 conference.

19 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act is found to be in  
20 conflict with a federal requirement, the federal requirement  
21 shall prevail and the provision shall be deemed to be amended to  
22 conform to the federal requirement.



# H.B. NO. 897

1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
 4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
 5 year 2012-2013 for administrative expenses of the Hawaii  
 6 interagency council on homelessness.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
 10 provided that section 6 shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

11

INTRODUCED BY:

*PCover. am*  
*Della A. Relett*  
*Karl Nord*  
*OR*  
*Tom Bann*

JAN 24 2011



**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Interagency Council; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness and makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

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

