

JAN 21 2011

S.B. NO. 897

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 2010, a Homeless Service Utilization Report
2 prepared by the center of the family at the University of Hawaii
3 and the homeless programs office of the department of human
4 services revealed that statewide, there are 13,886 people who
5 experience homelessness. This represents an increase of three
6 per cent from just a year ago. The report also revealed that
7 six hundred forty-six persons deemed themselves at risk of
8 homelessness or precariously housed because they are three
9 monthly paychecks away from homelessness.

10 The legislature finds that Hawaii's limited rental housing
11 stock and the growing population have resulted in high rental
12 housing costs. Without affordable rentals, homeless persons who
13 are ready to transition from shelters to permanent housing have
14 nowhere to go, which in turn leaves shelters unable to take in
15 the growing numbers of new residents who become homeless. This
16 results in a growing population of unsheltered homeless and a
17 higher demand for homeless programs and services.



1 The ability of the State's homeless services program office
2 to meet the needs of the growing homeless population has been
3 limited by a consistent lack of resources over the years. The
4 recent economic downturn has made a dire situation critical, due
5 to budget cuts and the deletion of needed reduction in force
6 positions.

7 The purpose of this Act is to address the needs of the
8 growing homeless population in Hawaii and to increase the
9 inventory of affordable rental housing which in turn will enable
10 homeless people to help themselves by achieving improved,
11 permanent living situations.

12 SECTION 2. The Hawaii housing finance and development
13 corporation shall conduct a survey to identify and inventory
14 state-owned and state-managed housing units statewide that are
15 vacant and could be used as affordable rental housing under
16 chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including housing units
17 that could be used as affordable rental housing if renovated or
18 restored.

19 SECTION 3. The Hawaii housing finance and development
20 corporation shall report to the governor and the legislature no
21 later than December 1, 2011, on the results of the survey
22 conducted under section 2 of this Act, including providing an



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1 inventory list that identifies each vacant unit by legal owner,
2 street location, and tax map key number.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Homeless; Affordable Housing

Description:

Requires the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to identify housing units, owned or managed by the state, that are vacant and could be used as affordable rental housing. Report to governor and legislature.

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