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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 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 office of Hawaiian affairs, to be designated by  
15                  the chair of the office of Hawaiian affairs board of  
16                  trustees;
- 17          (16) The department of Hawaiian home lands, to be  
18                  designated by the chair of the Hawaiian homes  
19                  commission;
- 20          (17) The homeless programs of the United States Department  
21                  of Veterans Affairs, to be designated by the head of



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



- 1           (23) A community health center that provides services to  
2           the homeless;
- 3           (24) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, to be  
4           designated by the bishop of Honolulu;
- 5           (25) The executive director of the Office for Social  
6           Ministry, Big Island Branch; and
- 7           (26) The leeward housing coalition, to be designated by the  
8           executive director of the leeward housing coalition.

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

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



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



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**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.  
(SB897 HD1)

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

