
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homeless individuals
2 are often able to improve their personal circumstances when
3 provided with appropriate access to family members or other
4 support groups. The return-to-home program is intended to
5 assist homeless individuals who are presently in this State to
6 reconnect with support networks ready to receive them in their
7 respective home states.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary return-
9 to-home program for qualified homeless individuals.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately
12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§346- Return-to-home program. (a) There is
14 established within the department, a voluntary homeless
15 assistance program to be known as the return-to-home program, to
16 assist eligible homeless individuals to return to an
17 individual's home state. The department shall administer the
18 program.



1 (b) A homeless individual shall be eligible to participate
2 in the program only if the following requirements are met:

3 (1) The individual's participation in the program is
4 completely voluntary;

5 (2) The individual has an established support system in
6 the individual's home state that is willing to receive
7 and assist the individual;

8 (3) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
9 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
10 the relevant court to participate in the program; and

11 (4) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
12 resources necessary to return to the individual's home
13 state.

14 (c) A homeless individual may participate in the return-
15 to-home program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
16 effect prior to participating in the program. The agreement
17 shall be maintained by the department.

18 (d) The department shall actively seek to involve airline
19 companies, cruise lines, charter companies, homeless assistance
20 programs, travel agencies, and the visitor industry in the
21 program.



1 (e) The department shall assist each homeless participant
2 in the program with the necessary preparations to return to the
3 individual's home state, including but not limited to acquiring
4 any required identification documents, public transportation to
5 the airport, orientation relating to airport security, and basic
6 personal hygiene. The department shall ensure that each
7 participant is in sufficient physical and mental health to make
8 the trip back to the participant's home state. The department
9 shall follow up with each participating homeless individual
10 within one month of the individual's return to the individual's
11 home state to assess the individual's efforts at successful
12 reunification with family or any other support system.

13 (f) By no later than December 31, 2012, the department
14 shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to develop and
15 implement the return-to-home program."

16 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall evaluate
17 the implementation of the provisions of this Act and submit a
18 report of findings and recommendations to the legislature no
19 less than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
20 session of 2014.

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



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1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to
2 implement the return-to-home program, including all program
3 costs and the hiring of necessary staff.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 human services for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and
8 shall be repealed on June 30, 2014.

9

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Report Title:

Homeless; Return-to-Home Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes on a temporary basis the return-to-home program to assist homeless individuals participating in the program to return to their home states if there is a support network available to receive them. Appropriates funds.

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