
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 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 is composed of
16 nineteen federal agencies to coordinate the nation's housing,
17 health, employment security, education, and human services
18 functions to create a national partnership between every level



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

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

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

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



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

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

17 (c) As used in this Act, "council" means the Hawaii
18 interagency council on homelessness.

19 SECTION 3. The council shall be composed of at least one
20 representative from each of the following:

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



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- 1 (2) The senate, to be designated by the president of the
2 senate;
- 3 (3) The house of representatives, to be designated by the
4 speaker of the house of representatives;
- 5 (4) The benefit, employment, and support services division
6 of the department of human services, to be designated
7 by the director of human services;
- 8 (5) The homeless programs office of the department of
9 human services, to be designated by the director of
10 human services;
- 11 (6) The Hawaii public housing authority, to be designated
12 by the director of human services;
- 13 (7) The Hawaii housing finance and development
14 corporation, to be designated by the director of
15 business, economic development, and tourism;
- 16 (8) The Hawaii community development authority, to be
17 designated by the director of business, economic
18 development, and tourism;
- 19 (9) The adult mental health division of the department of
20 health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 21 (10) The alcohol and drug abuse division of the department
22 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 board of trustees of the office of
16 Hawaiian affairs;
- 17 (16) The department of Hawaiian home lands, to be
18 designated by the chair of the Hawaiian homes
19 commission;
- 20 (17) A representative of the homeless programs of the
21 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to be
22 designated by the head of the Hawaii office of the



1 United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be
2 requested to participate;

3 (18) The center on the family at the University of Hawaii;

4 (19) A representative of the Office of Community Planning
5 and Development of the United States Department of
6 Housing and Urban Development, to be designated by the
7 director of the Hawaii office of the Office of
8 Community Planning and Development of the United
9 States Department of Housing and Urban Development
10 shall be requested to participate;

11 (20) The mayor of each county or the mayor's designee, who
12 is responsible for the administration of homeless and
13 housing programs for that county;

14 (21) The director or head of the continuum of care
15 collaboration of each county, as follows:

16 (A) Maui Homeless Alliance;

17 (B) Community Action Partners (Hawaii county);

18 (C) Partners In Care (city and county of Honolulu);

19 and

20 (D) Kauai Community Alliance;



1 (22) The Hawaii Association of Realtors, to be designated
2 by the president of the Hawaii Association of
3 Realtors;

4 (23) A community health center that provides services to
5 the homeless designated by the director of health;

6 (24) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, to be
7 designated by the Bishop of Honolulu;

8 (25) The Executive Director of the Office for Social
9 Ministry, Big Island Branch; and

10 (26) The Leeward Housing Coalition, to be designated by the
11 Executive Director of the Leeward Housing Coalition.

12 SECTION 4. (a) The council shall have the duties as
13 provided in this section; provided that:

14 (1) The council may prioritize the duties, adapt or modify
15 any duty to the circumstances, and refrain from
16 exercising any duty if changing circumstances make the
17 duty no longer necessary or if a particular duty
18 conflicts with another law or duty of another agency;
19 and

20 (2) The council shall endeavor to coordinate the duties,
21 responsibilities, and functions 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 an
- 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-term and long-term statewide strategies
- 18 and 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, businesses,



1 philanthropic and 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, and
10 to the mayor and council of each county on the
11 progress of creating and implementing a ten-year plan
12 to end 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
2 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 12 2012



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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.

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

