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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hawaii  
22 interagency council on homelessness, which shall be an advisory



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

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

11 (1) Be responsible for organizing its member entities to  
12 formulate and coordinate a unified plan to address  
13 homelessness in all counties and facilitate the  
14 acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs;

15 (2) Serve as the statewide homelessness planning and  
16 policy development entity with broad representation  
17 from state and county government and the community;

18 (3) Formulate and advise on the implementation of a  
19 unified, statewide plan to address homelessness in all  
20 counties;

21 (4) Consider collaborative homelessness initiatives of  
22 other states that have demonstrated positive



1 measurable outcomes as possible models for state and  
2 local programs;

3 (5) Promote systems integration of social, health,  
4 training, and housing services to reduce duplication  
5 among homeless assistance programs;

6 (6) Develop short-term and long-term statewide strategies  
7 and plans to end homelessness with an emphasis on  
8 eliminating chronic homelessness; and

9 (7) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, and  
10 the mayors on the progress of its activities,  
11 including the formulation and progress of the unified,  
12 statewide plan.

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

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

17 (1) The office of the governor, to be designated by the  
18 governor;

19 (2) The benefit, employment, and support services division  
20 of the department of human services, to be designated  
21 by the director of human services;



- 1           (3) The homeless programs office of the department of  
2           human services, to be designated by the director of  
3           human services;
- 4           (4) The Hawaii public housing authority, to be designated  
5           by the director of human services;
- 6           (5) The adult mental health division of the department of  
7           health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 8           (6) The alcohol and drug abuse division of the department  
9           of health, to be designated by the director of health;
- 10          (7) The director of public safety or the director's  
11          designee;
- 12          (8) The mayor of each county or the respective mayor's  
13          designee;
- 14          (9) A representative of the United States Department of  
15          Veterans Affairs;
- 16          (10) A representative from the Office of Community Planning  
17          and Development, United States Department of Housing  
18          and Urban Development;
- 19          (11) A representative of a faith-based organization with  
20          interfaith relationships, to be designated by the  
21          governor;



1 (12) The workforce development division of the department  
2 of labor and industrial relations, to be designated by  
3 the director of labor and industrial relations; and

4 (13) The office of Hawaiian affairs, to be designated by  
5 the chair of the board of trustees of the office of  
6 Hawaiian affairs.

7 SECTION 4. The council shall meet quarterly, or more  
8 frequently as it deems necessary. A majority of the council  
9 members shall constitute a quorum to do business and to validate  
10 any decision or act of the council.

11 In the event a council member is unable to attend a  
12 meeting, the member may appoint a designee to attend and to act  
13 on the member's behalf during the meeting.

14 SECTION 5. (a) The council shall have the duties as  
15 provided in this section; provided that:

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



1           (2) The council shall endeavor to coordinate the duties,  
2                   responsibilities, and functions of all members of the  
3                   council.

4           SECTION 6. The unified, statewide plan under section  
5 2(b)(3) of this Act shall be developed to assist individuals who  
6 are homeless or facing homelessness; prioritize the needs of the  
7 most vulnerable individuals and families; encourage and promote  
8 partnerships between public and private entities to identify,  
9 renovate, and secure dignified transitional, as well as,  
10 permanent housing options; promote development and utilization  
11 of support services including job training, mental health, and  
12 substance abuse treatment that will enhance the transition out  
13 of homelessness; increase access to public areas for all members  
14 of the community; support efforts to obtain accurate statistics  
15 on those who are homeless; and activate, coordinate, and  
16 maintain responsive action among the public, philanthropic,  
17 business, and faith-based communities to become part of the  
18 homelessness solution strategy.

19           SECTION 7. The department of human services shall conduct  
20 a study on the feasibility of establishing safe havens for  
21 persons who are homeless in the State. The study shall include:



- 1 (1) Defining "safe haven";
- 2 (2) Identifying the demand or need for safe havens in the  
3 State;
- 4 (3) Determining the effectiveness of safe havens and  
5 alternatives to safe havens;
- 6 (4) Determining the services, facilities, staffing, and  
7 other resources that are needed for a safe haven;
- 8 (5) Assessing the costs involved in developing and  
9 constructing a safe haven; and
- 10 (6) Identifying safe havens in other states that can serve  
11 as models for implementation.

12 The department of human services shall submit a report of  
13 its findings and recommendations, including proposed  
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days before  
15 the convening of the regular session of 2013.

16 SECTION 8. If any provision of this Act is found to be in  
17 conflict with a federal requirement, the federal requirement  
18 shall prevail and the provision shall be deemed to be amended to  
19 conform to the federal government.

20 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,  
21 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2018.





**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Interagency Council; Department of Human Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness under the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes. Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct a study on establishing safe havens in the State and to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session on its findings and recommendations from the study. Repealed June 30, 2018. (HB1735 HD1)

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

