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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness is a  
2 complex and multifaceted issue requiring planning, coordination,  
3 implementation, and funding across federal, state, local,  
4 business, and community lines. Locally, many government  
5 agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other private sector  
6 organizations have worked diligently and successfully to assist  
7 those who are homeless. Yet, Hawaii has experienced an increase  
8 in the number of homeless individuals and families.

9           According to 2009 data, Hawaii has twice as many people who  
10 are homeless per 100,000 people as the national average. The  
11 2011 State-wide Point in Time Count indicated a six per cent  
12 increase in homelessness throughout the State. Further, 2010  
13 data indicate that almost one third of the sheltered homeless  
14 are children; more than ten per cent are veterans; over sixty  
15 per cent have lived in Hawaii for more than ten years; almost  
16 half of the families who are homeless include someone who is  
17 employed; and almost thirty per cent are Hawaiian or part

1 Hawaiian; thus, showing that there is no single profile of  
2 someone who is homeless.

3 In January 2011, the governor of the State of Hawaii  
4 pronouncing the elimination of homelessness a "moral  
5 imperative", appointed the first governor's coordinator on  
6 homelessness, to lead the effort to prevent and eliminate  
7 homelessness in Hawaii through the use of strategic approaches,  
8 structural changes, and unprecedented collaborative and civic  
9 involvement.

10 On March 4, 2011, the governor of the State of Hawaii  
11 hosted with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, an  
12 interagency leadership forum on homelessness attended by leaders  
13 from government, business, the community, and the faith  
14 community, to advocate for the development of a collaborative  
15 strategy to end homelessness in Hawaii.

16 On June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on  
17 Homelessness, comprised of nineteen Cabinet Secretaries and  
18 agency heads, released "*Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to*  
19 *Prevent and End Homelessness*", the nation's first comprehensive  
20 strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

21 "*Opening Doors*" identified the following four ambitious  
22 goals of finishing the job of ending chronic homelessness in

1 five years; preventing and ending homelessness among veterans in  
2 five years; preventing and ending homelessness for families,  
3 youth, and children in ten years; and setting a path to ending  
4 all types of homelessness.

5 The governor of Hawaii has found it to be imperative and in  
6 the public interest to capitalize on the opportunities and  
7 momentum generated by the United States Interagency Council on  
8 Homelessness, to provide leadership for the prevention and  
9 elimination of homelessness, and to keep Hawaii at the forefront  
10 of providing care to its residents in the spirit of the Law of  
11 the Splintered Paddle (Ke Kānāwai Mamalahoe), Hawaii State  
12 Constitution, Article IX, Section 10.

13 Consequently, on July 19, 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie,  
14 through the issuance of Executive Order No. 11-21, pursuant to  
15 the provisions of section 26-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
16 temporarily established the Hawaii interagency council on  
17 homelessness.

18 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii  
19 interagency council on homelessness by statute, which will  
20 further enhance the ability of the council to provide solutions  
21 for ending homelessness in Hawaii. By establishing the  
22 interagency council on homelessness by statute the importance of

1 ending homelessness will be highlighted and continuity through  
2 administrations is strengthened.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

7 §346- Hawaii interagency council on homelessness;  
8 establishment. There is established the Hawaii interagency  
9 council on homelessness, which shall be an advisory body exempt  
10 from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Hawaii  
11 interagency council on homelessness shall be placed within the  
12 department of human services for administrative purposes.

13 The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall:

- 14 (1) Serve as the statewide homelessness planning and  
15 policy development entity with broad representation  
16 from state and county government and the community;
- 17 (2) Formulate and advise the governor on the  
18 implementation of a unified ten-year, statewide plan  
19 to address homelessness in all Hawaii counties;
- 20 (3) Facilitate the acquisition of funding and resources  
21 for state and county homeless programs;

- 1           (4) Recommend policy, regulatory and statutory changes,  
2           and identify resource strategies for the successful  
3           execution of the ten-year plan;
- 4           (5) Assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information  
5           to support policy development and track outcomes;
- 6           (6) Consider collaborative homelessness initiatives of  
7           other states that have demonstrated positive  
8           measurable outcomes as possible models for state and  
9           local programs;
- 10          (7) Promote systems integration of social, health,  
11          training, and housing services to reduce duplication  
12          among homeless assistance programs;
- 13          (8) Advise on the development and implementation of a  
14          public education program on homelessness in Hawaii and  
15          disseminate information including data and best  
16          practices; and
- 17          (9) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, and  
18          the mayors on the progress of its activities,  
19          including formulation and progress of the ten-year  
20          plan.

21          The ten-year plan will be developed to assist individuals  
22          who are homeless or facing homelessness; prioritize the needs of

1 the most vulnerable individuals and families; encourage and  
2 promote partnerships between public and private entities to  
3 identify, renovate, and secure dignified transitional, as well  
4 as, permanent housing options; promote development and  
5 utilization of support services including job training, mental  
6 health, and substance abuse treatment that will enhance the  
7 transition out of homelessness; increase access to public areas  
8 for all members of the community; support efforts to obtain  
9 accurate statistics on those who are homeless; and activate,  
10 coordinate, and maintain responsive action among the public,  
11 business, and faith-based communities to become part of the  
12 homelessness solution strategy.

13 §346- Membership. The Hawaii interagency council on  
14 homelessness shall be composed of the following members:

- 15 (1) Governor's coordinator on homelessness, who will serve  
16 as chair;
- 17 (2) Director of human services or designee;
- 18 (3) Administrator of the homeless programs office of the  
19 department of human services or designee;
- 20 (4) Director of health or designee;
- 21 (5) Director of labor and industrial relations or  
22 designee;

- 1           (6) Director of public safety or designee;
- 2           (7) Director of business, economic development, and
- 3           tourism or designee;
- 4           (8) Adjutant general of the department of defense or
- 5           designee
- 6           (9) Administrator of the office of Hawaiian affairs or
- 7           designee;
- 8           (10) Attorney general or designee;
- 9           (11) Superintendent of education or designee;
- 10          (12) One representative to be designated by the speaker of
- 11          the house of representatives;
- 12          (13) One senator to be designated by the president of the
- 13          senate;
- 14          (14) The mayor of each of each county or designee;
- 15          (15) A representative of the United States Department of
- 16          Veterans Affairs;
- 17          (16) A representative from the Office of Community Planning
- 18          and Development, United States Department of Housing
- 19          and Urban Development;
- 20          (17) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of
- 21          the city and county of Honolulu;

1 (18) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of  
2 Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties;

3 (19) A representative of a faith-based organization with  
4 interfaith relationships, to be designated by the  
5 governor; and

6 (20) A representative of the business community, to be  
7 designated by the governor.

8 The non-governmental members of the Hawaii interagency  
9 council on homelessness shall serve without compensation but  
10 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,  
11 necessary for the performance of their duties.

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

16 §346- Meetings. The Hawaii Interagency Council on  
17 Homelessness shall meet quarterly, or more frequently as it  
18 deems necessary.

19 A majority of the members of the Hawaii interagency council  
20 on homelessness shall constitute a quorum to do business and to  
21 validate any decision or act of the council."

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013, for  
4 administrative expenses of the Hawaii interagency council on  
5 homelessness.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012;  
9 provided that on June 30, 2022, this Act shall be repealed.

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INTRODUCED BY: Calvin K. Jay  
BY REQUEST  
JAN 23 2012

H .B. NO. 2542

**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Interagency Council; Department of Human Services;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to be administratively placed within the Department of Human Services; makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

PURPOSE: To establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and to make an appropriation for its administrative expenses.

MEANS: Add a new part to chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Homelessness is a complex and multifaceted issue requiring planning, coordination, implementation, and funding across Federal, State, local, business and community lines. Locally, many government agencies, non-profits, and the private sector have worked diligently and successfully to assist those who are homeless. Yet, Hawaii has experienced an increase in the number of homeless individuals and families.

On July 19, 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie, through the issuance of Executive Order No. 11-21, pursuant to the provisions of section 26-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, temporarily established the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). In establishing the HICH, the Governor of Hawaii found it to be imperative and in the public interest to capitalize on the opportunities and momentum generated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness by providing leadership for the prevention and elimination of homelessness, and to keep Hawaii at the forefront of providing care to its residents in the spirit of the Law of the Splintered Paddle (Ke Kānāwai Mamalahoe).

Establishing the HICH by statute will enhance the ability of the council to provide solutions for ending homelessness in Hawaii by highlighting the importance on ending homelessness and strengthening continuity through administrations.

Impact on the public: A high level of coordinated community action to end homelessness in Hawaii is established with the objective of ending homelessness in ten years.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Fosters more efficient use of limited funds via planning and interagency coordination.

GENERAL FUND: To be determined.

OTHER FUNDS: Currently funded by \$116,500 in grant moneys which will expire May 31, 2012. Unexpended funds may be carried over into the next grant period beginning June 1, 2012.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: HMS 904.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: Departments of Health, Labor and Industrial Relations, Public Safety, Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Defense, Attorney General, and Education, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaii State Legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.