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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 many homeless  
2 persons are known to thrive when they have ready access to  
3 familiar support groups or family members. The intent of the  
4 return-to-home program is to ensure that those individuals who  
5 find themselves homeless are able to reconnect with support  
6 networks that are ready and able to receive them.

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

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

12           "§346-           Return-to-home program. (a) There may be  
13 established within the department, a voluntary homeless  
14 assistance program to be known as the return-to-home program, to  
15 assist eligible homeless individuals to reunite with family and  
16 relatives in the individual's home state. The department shall  
17 administer the program.



1       (b) A homeless individual shall not be eligible to  
2 participate in the program unless:

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

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

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

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

14       (c) An individual may participate in the return-to-home  
15 program only once and shall sign an agreement to this effect  
16 prior to participating in the program. The agreement shall be  
17 kept on file with the department.

18       (d) The department shall actively seek the participation  
19 of local airlines, cruise lines, charter companies, homeless  
20 programs, travel agencies, and the visitor industry to  
21 coordinate and implement the program.

22       (e) The department shall:



1       (1) Assist program participants with necessary and proper  
2       preparations for the return trip, including obtaining  
3       proper identification, public transportation to the  
4       airport, aid with orientation relating to airport  
5       security, and the basics of personal hygiene;

6       (2) Ensure that the participant has sufficient physical  
7       and mental health to endure a return flight; and

8       (3) Follow up with each individual within one month of the  
9       individual's return to the individual's home state to  
10       assess efforts at successful reunification with any  
11       family or support system.

12       (f) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
13       91 to develop the return-to-home program and adopt standards for  
14       its implementation."

15       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to  
18 implement the return-to-home program, including all program  
19 costs and the hiring of necessary staff.

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



- 1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



**Report Title:**

Homeless; Return-to-Home Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the return-to-home program to assist eligible homeless individuals return to their home state if there is a support network available and the support network is able to receive them. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2030.  
(SB2568 HD2)

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