
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 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, nonprofit entities, and
8 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 council shall be attached to the department of human services
3 for administrative purposes. The director of human services
4 shall serve as the ad hoc coordinator of the council. The
5 members of the council shall serve without compensation but
6 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,
7 necessary for the performance of their duties.

8 (b) The council shall:

- 9 (1) Be responsible for organizing its member entities to
10 formulate and coordinate a unified plan to address
11 homelessness in all counties and facilitate the
12 acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs;
- 13 (2) Serve as the statewide homelessness planning and
14 policy development entity with broad representation
15 from state and county government and the community;
- 16 (3) Formulate and advise on the implementation of a
17 unified, statewide plan to address homelessness in all
18 counties;
- 19 (4) Consider collaborative homelessness initiatives of
20 other states that have demonstrated positive
21 measurable outcomes as possible models for state and
22 local programs;



- 1 (5) Promote systems integration of social, health,
2 training, and housing services to reduce duplication
3 among homeless assistance programs;
- 4 (6) Develop short-term and long-term statewide strategies
5 and plans to end homelessness with an emphasis on
6 eliminating chronic homelessness; and
- 7 (7) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, and
8 the mayors on the progress of its activities,
9 including the formulation and progress of the unified,
10 statewide plan.

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

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

- 15 (1) The office of the governor, to be designated by the
16 governor;
- 17 (2) The benefit, employment, and support services division
18 of the department of human services, to be designated
19 by the director of human services;
- 20 (3) The homeless programs office of the department of
21 human services, to be designated by the director of
22 human services;



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



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

5 If a council member is unable to attend a meeting, the
6 member may appoint a designee to attend and to act on the
7 member's behalf during the meeting.

8 SECTION 5. The council shall have the duties as provided
9 in section 2(b) of this Act; provided that:

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

16 (2) The council shall endeavor to coordinate the duties,
17 responsibilities, and functions of all members of the
18 council.

19 SECTION 6. The unified, statewide plan under section
20 2(b)(3) of this Act shall be developed to:

21 (1) Assist individuals who are homeless or facing
22 homelessness;



- 1 (2) Prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable
- 2 individuals and families;
- 3 (3) Encourage and promote partnerships between public and
- 4 private entities to identify, renovate, and secure
- 5 dignified transitional as well as permanent housing
- 6 options;
- 7 (4) Promote development and utilization of support
- 8 services including job training, mental health, and
- 9 substance abuse treatment that will enhance the
- 10 transition out of homelessness;
- 11 (5) Increase access to public areas for all members of the
- 12 community;
- 13 (6) Support efforts to obtain accurate statistics on those
- 14 who are homeless; and
- 15 (7) Activate, coordinate, and maintain responsive action
- 16 among the public, philanthropic, business, and faith-
- 17 based communities to become part of the homelessness
- 18 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 requirement.

20 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



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. 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. Effective July 1, 2030. (SB2804 HD2)

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