
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 2007 data, Hawaii has twice as many people who
10 are homeless per 100,000 people as the national average. The
11 2011 Statewide 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, pronouncing the elimination
4 of homelessness a "moral imperative", appointed the first
5 governor's coordinator on homelessness, to lead the effort to
6 prevent and eliminate homelessness in Hawaii through the use of
7 strategic approaches, structural changes, and unprecedented
8 collaborative and civic involvement.

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

15 On June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on
16 Homelessness, comprised of nineteen cabinet members and agency
17 heads and local and state partners in the public and private
18 sectors, 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 ambitious goals of finishing the
22 job of ending chronic homelessness in five years; preventing and



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

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

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

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



1 will be highlighted, and continuity through administrations will
2 be 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. (a) 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 (b) 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 (c) The ten-year, statewide plan shall be developed to:



- 1 (1) Assist individuals who are homeless or facing
2 homelessness;
- 3 (2) Prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable
4 individuals and families;
- 5 (3) Encourage and promote partnerships between public and
6 private entities to identify, renovate, and secure
7 dignified transitional and permanent housing options;
- 8 (4) Promote development and utilization of support
9 services, including job training, mental health, and
10 substance abuse treatment, that will enhance the
11 transition out of homelessness;
- 12 (5) Increase access to public areas for all members of the
13 community;
- 14 (6) Support efforts to obtain accurate statistics on those
15 who are homeless; and
- 16 (7) Activate, coordinate, and maintain responsive action
17 among the public, business, and faith-based
18 communities to become part of the homelessness
19 solution strategy.
- 20 §346- Membership. (a) The Hawaii interagency council
21 on homelessness shall be composed of the following members:



- 1 (1) Governor's coordinator on homelessness, who will serve
- 2 as chair;
- 3 (2) Director of human services or designee;
- 4 (3) Administrator of the homeless programs office of the
- 5 department of human services or designee;
- 6 (4) Director of health or designee;
- 7 (5) Director of labor and industrial relations or
- 8 designee;
- 9 (6) Director of public safety or designee;
- 10 (7) Director of business, economic development, and
- 11 tourism or designee;
- 12 (8) Chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
- 13 designee;
- 14 (9) Adjutant general of the department of defense or
- 15 designee;
- 16 (10) Administrator of the office of Hawaiian affairs or
- 17 designee;
- 18 (11) Attorney general or designee;
- 19 (12) Superintendent of education or designee;
- 20 (13) One representative to be designated by the speaker of
- 21 the house of representatives;



- 1 (14) One senator to be designated by the president of the
2 senate;
- 3 (15) The mayor of each county or the mayor's designee;
- 4 (16) A representative of the United States Department of
5 Veterans Affairs;
- 6 (17) A representative from the Office of Community Planning
7 and Development, United States Department of Housing
8 and Urban Development;
- 9 (18) A representative of the continuum of care programs of
10 the city and county of Honolulu;
- 11 (19) A representative of the continuum of care programs of
12 Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties;
- 13 (20) A representative of a faith-based organization with
14 interfaith relationships, to be designated by the
15 governor; and
- 16 (21) A representative of the business community, to be
17 designated by the governor.
- 18 (b) The non-governmental members of the Hawaii interagency
19 council on homelessness shall serve without compensation but
20 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,
21 necessary for the performance of their duties.



1 (c) In the event a Hawaii interagency council on
2 homelessness member is unable to attend a meeting, the member
3 may appoint a designee to attend and to act on the member's
4 behalf during the meeting.

5 (d) Chapter 84 shall not apply to the members of the
6 Hawaii interagency council on homelessness.

7 **§346- Meetings; quorum.** (a) The Hawaii interagency
8 council on homelessness shall meet quarterly, or more frequently
9 as it deems necessary.

10 (b) A majority of the members of the Hawaii interagency
11 council on homelessness shall constitute a quorum to do business
12 and to validate any decision or act of the council."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for
16 administrative expenses of the Hawaii interagency council on
17 homelessness.

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and
21 shall be repealed on June 30, 2022.



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. Repeals
6/30/22. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

