
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 **PART I**

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
3 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
4 challenging social problems. The legislature further finds that
5 according to a recent report, fourteen thousand two hundred
6 homeless individuals were served through shelter and outreach
7 programs in fiscal year 2011. Of these individuals, nine
8 thousand seven hundred eighty-one resided in the city and county
9 of Honolulu. The legislature also finds that homeless service
10 providers estimate that six thousand homeless people in the
11 State need shelter each night.

12 The legislature additionally finds that homelessness is a
13 complex issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated
14 efforts at all levels. The legislature also finds that homeless
15 persons face a myriad of issues, including mental illness,
16 substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of
17 affordable housing. Appropriate funding for programs and
18 services tailored to address these issues is essential.



1 The purpose of this part is to better assist individuals
2 facing or experiencing homelessness by funding various homeless
3 and housing programs.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for
7 substance abuse treatment and mental health support services for
8 individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of health for the purposes of this part.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for clean
14 and sober housing support services to be administered by the
15 alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of health.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of health for the purposes of this part.

18 **PART II**

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for a
22 rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy



1 program, for homeless working individuals and their families who
2 are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain
3 permanent housing; provided that:

4 (1) The maximum subsidy shall be \$300 per month; provided
5 that in order to qualify for the subsidy, a household
6 shall pay a minimum of forty per cent of their
7 adjusted gross income for rent; and

8 (2) A household's adjusted gross income shall be
9 calculated in the same manner as calculated by the
10 Hawaii public housing authority to qualify for public
11 housing under the authority's control.

12 The sums appropriated for program and administrative costs
13 associated with establishing and operating the shallow subsidy
14 program shall be expended by the department of human services
15 through a contract issued pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii
16 Revised Statutes, and sums appropriated for staff within the
17 homeless programs office to administer the program shall be
18 expended by the department of human services for the purposes of
19 this part.

20 **PART III**

21 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that housing first
22 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of



1 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
3 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an
4 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing
5 first programs include:

- 6 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
7 directly from streets and the shelters without a
8 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
- 9 (2) Providing robust support services for program
10 participants that are predicated on assertive
11 engagement rather than coercion;
- 12 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
13 program participants in housing first programs;
- 14 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions
15 rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
16 program participant commitments to recovery; and
- 17 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
18 protections as provided by law.

19 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble
20 the requirements of the United States Housing and Urban
21 Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans
22 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher



1 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to
2 the legislature pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the
4 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements
5 plus support services through the shelter plus care and
6 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

7 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
8 department of human services to support the State's housing
9 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who
10 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult
11 to serve.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 to be
15 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund
16 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
17 the department of human services to continue to administer
18 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in
19 the State.

20 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first
21 special fund the sum of \$750,000 or so much thereof as may be
22 necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the department of human



1 services to continue to administer housing first programs for
2 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART IV**

6 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that the purpose of the
7 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's
8 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program was to
9 provide economically distressed households and individuals with
10 financial and other assistance to prevent them from becoming
11 homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be
12 quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds under this program
13 were intended to target individuals and families who would be
14 homeless but for this assistance.

15 The department of human services administered the
16 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide
17 homeless prevention and housing assistance to all eligible
18 individuals and households who apply through contracted
19 organizations. The funds from the program provided for a
20 variety of assistance, including short-term or medium-term
21 rental assistance and housing relocation, and stabilization



1 services, such as mediation, security or utility deposits,
2 utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

3 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
4 department of human services to once again provide homelessness
5 prevention and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible
6 individuals and households.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the
10 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of human services for the purposes of this part.

13 **PART V**

14 SECTION 10. The shelter plus care program of the United
15 States Department of Housing and Urban Development provides
16 rental assistance in connection with supportive services. The
17 program provides a variety of permanent housing choices,
18 accompanied by a range of supportive services funded through
19 other sources. The program assists hard-to-serve homeless
20 individuals with disabilities and their families. These
21 individuals primarily include those with serious mental illness,



1 chronic problems with alcohol and drugs, and HIV, AIDS, or
2 related diseases.

3 There are four components to the shelter plus care program:
4 single room occupancy component – moderate rehabilitation for
5 single-room occupancy dwellings; sponsor-based rental assistance
6 component; project-based rental assistance component; and
7 tenant-based rental assistance component. Under all components,
8 supportive services must be available to meet the needs of
9 participants. Similar to many other federal programs, the
10 shelter plus care program has a match requirement. Applicants
11 must match the aggregate amount of shelter plus care rental
12 assistance with supportive services. This ensures that
13 appropriate and timely services will be available to meet the
14 needs of individual participants.

15 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for
16 the shelter plus care program.

17 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for
20 matching funds for the shelter plus care program of the United
21 States Department of Housing and Urban Development.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services for the purposes of this part.

3 **PART VI**

4 SECTION 12. The legislature finds that many homeless
5 persons are known to thrive better when they have ready access
6 to familiar support groups or family members. The intent of the
7 return-to-home program is to ensure that those individuals who
8 find themselves homeless in the islands are able to reconnect
9 with support networks ready and able to receive them.

10 The purpose of this part is to establish a three-year
11 return-to-home program for eligible homeless individuals.

12 SECTION 13. (a) The department of human services may
13 coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program to be
14 known as the return-to-home pilot program to provide eligible
15 homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with
16 family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
17 department may contract with eligible non-profit organizations,
18 for profit organizations, or foundations to administer the pilot
19 program.

20 (b) No individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
21 participate in the return-to-home pilot program unless:



- 1 (1) The individual's participation is completely
2 voluntary;
- 3 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
4 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
5 the court to participate in the pilot program; and
- 6 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
7 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
8 to the individual's home state.
- 9 (c) An individual may participate in the return-to-home
10 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
11 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
12 shall be kept on file with the pilot program.
- 13 (d) The return-to-home pilot program shall actively seek
14 the participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
15 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
16 industry to coordinate and implement the pilot program.
- 17 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
18 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,
19 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
20 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
21 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.



1 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
2 on December 31, 2016.

3 SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for
6 implementation of the return-to-home pilot program, including
7 all program costs and hiring of necessary staff.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 human services for the purposes of this part.

10 **PART VII**

11 SECTION 15. The legislature finds that homelessness
12 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
13 challenging social problems. The number of homeless persons in
14 the State, estimated to be approximately six thousand on any
15 given day, is indicative of the limited shelter space available.

16 The legislature further finds that new and innovative
17 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.
18 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political
19 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight
20 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.
21 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program
22 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking



1 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons
2 with vehicles.

3 The purpose of this part is to establish a homeless
4 assistance working group to work within each local neighborhood
5 in each county to identify, plan, and implement housing options
6 for homeless persons in each local community by December 31,
7 2013, that reflect shared responsibility for addressing
8 homelessness in Hawaii.

9 SECTION 16. (a) There is established within the
10 department of human services a homeless assistance working
11 group. The purpose of the working group shall be to:

12 (1) Work within each local neighborhood in each county to
13 identify various private and public properties whose
14 owners are interested in partnering with the local
15 neighborhood and government to provide land or
16 structures that can be used to provide temporary homes
17 for homeless persons, including people who are living
18 in their motor vehicles;

19 (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office
20 and continuum of care providers to match homeless
21 persons in every community with appropriate care and
22 housing;



- 1 (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and
- 2 government agencies that may be willing to offer their
- 3 property for homeless persons living in their motor
- 4 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and
- 5 support to homeless persons;
- 6 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options
- 7 within each local community; and
- 8 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency
- 9 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.
- 10 (b) The director of human services, or a designee, shall
- 11 convene the working group and invite the following as members:
- 12 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;
- 13 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service
- 14 organizations, which may include:
- 15 (A) Community associations;
- 16 (B) Neighborhood boards; and
- 17 (C) Faith-based organizations;
- 18 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested
- 19 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,
- 20 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for
- 21 homeless persons;



- 1 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are
- 2 currently experiencing or formerly experienced
- 3 homelessness;
- 4 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 5 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,
- 6 development, and building industry;
- 7 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including
- 8 realtors and financial institutions;
- 9 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 10 (9) Representatives of legal services;
- 11 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
- 12 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city
- 13 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii
- 14 interagency council on homelessness and homeless
- 15 programs office administrator;
- 16 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected
- 17 officials; and
- 18 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.

19 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from
20 among themselves and serve without compensation.

21 (c) The working group shall convene within thirty days of
22 the effective date of this Act.



1 (d) The working group shall submit an interim report of
2 its findings and recommendations, including the progress made to
3 provide housing and support services, as appropriate, for
4 homeless persons and any innovative temporary housing solutions,
5 to the legislature no later than one hundred fifty days after
6 the effective date of this Act.

7 (e) The homeless assistance working group shall dissolve
8 on June 30, 2016.

9 SECTION 17. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the
12 construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing
13 solutions as they relate to the working group's findings and
14 recommendations.

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

17 **PART VIII**

18 SECTION 18. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013;
19 provided that part VI shall take effect no later than
20 December 31, 2013.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; Return-to-Home Pilot Program; Homeless Assistance Working Group; Appropriation

Description:

Part I: Appropriates funds to the department of health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services. Part II: Appropriates funds for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program. Parts III and IV: Appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals and to reestablish the homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program. Part V: Appropriates matching funds for the federal shelter plus care program to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services. Part VI: Establishes a three-year return-to-home pilot program beginning no later than 12/31/13. Part VII: Establishes homeless assistance working group. (CD1)

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

