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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that housing first  
2 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of  
3 human services and the United States Department of Housing and  
4 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for  
5 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an  
6 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing  
7 first programs include:

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



1 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant  
2 protections as provided by law.

3 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble  
4 the requirements of the United States Housing and Urban  
5 Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans  
6 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher  
7 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to  
8 the legislature pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised  
9 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the  
10 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements  
11 plus support services through the shelter plus care and  
12 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
14 department of human services to support the State's housing  
15 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who  
16 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult  
17 to serve.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
22 2014-2015 to be deposited to the credit of the housing first



1 special fund under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for  
2 the department of human services to continue to administer  
3 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in  
4 the State.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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**Report Title:**

Housing; Housing First Programs; Department of Human Services;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to  
continue to administer housing first programs for chronically  
homeless individuals in the State. (SD1)

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

