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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

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**PART I**

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SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness

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continues to be one of the State's most significant and

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challenging social problems. The legislature further finds that

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according to a recent report, fourteen thousand two hundred

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homeless individuals were served through shelter and outreach

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programs in fiscal year 2011. Of these individuals, 9,781

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resided in the city and county of Honolulu. The legislature

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also finds that homeless service providers estimate that six

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thousand homeless people in the State need shelter each night.

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The legislature additionally finds that homelessness is a

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complex issue that requires continuous resources and coordinated

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efforts at all levels. The legislature also finds that homeless

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persons face a myriad of issues, including mental illness,

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substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of

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affordable housing. Appropriate funding for programs and

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services tailored to address these issues is essential.





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 its adjusted  
7 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 United States Department of Housing and Urban  
11 Development.

12 The sum 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 the sum 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 the streets and 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 purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the  
20 department of human services to support the State's housing  
21 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who



1 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult  
2 to serve.

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be  
6 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund  
7 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for  
8 the department of human services to continue to administer  
9 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in  
10 the State.

11 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the housing first  
12 special fund the sum of \$750,000 or so much thereof as may be  
13 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of human  
14 services to continue to administer housing first programs for  
15 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

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

18 **PART IV**

19 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that the purpose of the  
20 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's  
21 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program is to  
22 provide economically distressed households and individuals with



1 financial and other assistance to prevent them from becoming  
2 homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be  
3 quickly re-housed and stabilized. The funds under this program  
4 are intended to target individuals and families who would be  
5 homeless but for this assistance.

6 The department of human services administers the  
7 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program to provide  
8 homeless prevention and housing assistance to all eligible  
9 individuals and households who apply through contracted  
10 organizations. The funds from the program provide for a variety  
11 of assistance, including short-term or medium-term rental  
12 assistance and housing relocation, and stabilization services,  
13 such as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility  
14 payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

15 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the  
16 department of human services to provide homelessness prevention  
17 and rapid re-housing assistance to all eligible individuals and  
18 households.

19 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
22 homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program.





1 Applicants must match the aggregate amount of continuum of care  
2 rental assistance with supportive services. This ensures that  
3 appropriate and timely services will be available to meet the  
4 needs of individual participants.

5 The purpose of this part is to provide matching funds for  
6 the continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs of  
7 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

8 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
11 matching funds for the continuum of care permanent supportive  
12 housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and  
13 Urban Development.

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

16 **PART VI**

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





1           The legislature further finds that new and innovative  
2 solutions are needed to address the homelessness crisis.  
3 Oregon, for example, has adopted laws that authorize political  
4 subdivisions to allow religious institutions to offer overnight  
5 camping space for homeless persons living in vehicles.  
6 Similarly, Santa Barbara, California, has instituted a program  
7 that allows private organizations to use county-owned parking  
8 lots to provide overnight sleeping space for homeless persons  
9 with vehicles.

10           Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established a  
11 homeless assistance working to group to work within each local  
12 neighborhood in each county to identify, plan, and implement  
13 housing options for homeless persons in each local community  
14 that reflect shared responsibility for addressing homelessness  
15 in Hawaii.

16           The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the  
17 construction and demonstration of housing solutions related to  
18 the homeless assistance working group's findings and  
19 recommendations.

20           SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the



1 construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing  
2 solutions as they relate to the working group's findings and  
3 recommendations.

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

6 **PART VII**

7 SECTION 14. Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, section  
8 16, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as  
9 follows:

10 "(a) There is established [~~within the department of human~~  
11 ~~services~~] a homeless assistance working group. The purpose of  
12 the working group shall be to:

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

20 (2) Coordinate with the State's homeless programs office  
21 and continuum of care providers to match homeless



1 persons in every community with appropriate care and  
2 housing;

3 (3) Work with non-profit organizations, businesses, and  
4 government agencies that may be willing to offer their  
5 property for homeless persons living in their motor  
6 vehicles and coordinate voluntary participation and  
7 support to homeless persons;

8 (4) Create, develop, and support the housing options  
9 within each local community; and

10 (5) Communicate and coordinate with the Hawaii interagency  
11 council on homelessness on meeting their goals.

12 (b) ~~[The director of human services, or a designee,]~~ The  
13 chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives  
14 committees on human services shall convene the working group and  
15 invite the following as members:

- 16 (1) Representatives of homeless service providers;  
17 (2) Representatives of community and volunteer service  
18 organizations, which may include:  
19 (A) Community associations;  
20 (B) Neighborhood boards; and  
21 (C) Faith-based organizations;



- 1 (3) Representatives of property owners who are interested  
2 in partnering with the State to provide land, homes,  
3 or buildings that can be used to provide homes for  
4 homeless persons;
- 5 (4) Representatives of the homeless community who are  
6 currently experiencing or formerly experienced  
7 homelessness;
- 8 (5) Representatives of environmental organizations;
- 9 (6) Representatives of the architecture, engineering,  
10 development, and building industry;
- 11 (7) Representatives of other businesses, including  
12 realtors and financial institutions;
- 13 (8) Representatives of labor unions;
- 14 (9) Representatives of legal services;
- 15 (10) Representatives of the technology community;
- 16 (11) Various federal, state, and county and city  
17 representatives, including the chair of the Hawaii  
18 interagency council on homelessness and homeless  
19 programs office administrator;
- 20 (12) Interested federal, state, county, and city elected  
21 officials; and
- 22 (13) Others interested in supporting homeless assistance.



1 The members of the working group shall designate a chair from  
2 among themselves and serve without compensation."

3 **PART VIII**

4 SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Housing; 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 department of human services 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 continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services. Part VI: Appropriates funds for innovative temporary housing solutions related to the homeless assistance working group's findings and recommendations. Part VII: Transfers the homeless assistance working group from the department of human services to the legislature. Requires the chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives committees on human services to convene the homeless assistance working group instead of the director of human services, or a designee. (SD1)

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

