
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
5 that, according to a recent report, fourteen thousand two
6 hundred homeless individuals were served through shelter and
7 outreach programs in fiscal year 2011. Of these individuals,
8 9,781 resided in the city and county of Honolulu. The
9 legislature also finds that homeless service providers estimate
10 that six thousand homeless people in the State need shelter each
11 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 \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
7 substance abuse treatment and mental health support services for
8 individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 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 \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 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 sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 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 \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 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 further that, in order to qualify for the subsidy, a
6 household shall pay a minimum of forty per cent of its
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 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, 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 \$ 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 \$ 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 homelessness 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 \$ 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 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this part.

3 **PART V**

4 SECTION 10. The continuum of care permanent supportive
5 housing programs funded by the United States Department of
6 Housing and Urban Development provide rental assistance in
7 connection with supportive services. The programs provide a
8 variety of permanent housing choices, accompanied by a range of
9 supportive services funded through other sources. The programs
10 assist hard-to-serve homeless individuals with disabilities and
11 their families. These individuals primarily include those with
12 serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and drugs,
13 and HIV, AIDS, or related diseases.

14 There are four components to the continuum of care
15 permanent supportive housing programs: single room occupancy
16 component - moderate rehabilitation for single-room occupancy
17 dwellings; sponsor-based rental assistance component; project-
18 based rental assistance component; and tenant-based rental
19 assistance component. Under all components, supportive services
20 must be available to meet the needs of participants. Similar to
21 many other federal programs, continuum of care permanent
22 supportive housing programs have a match requirement. Thus,



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 \$ 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 \$ 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, 2050.



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 the homelessness 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. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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