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# 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 rental housing revolving fund is  
3 established under section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to  
4 provide loans or grants for the development, pre-development,  
5 construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial  
6 rehabilitation of rental housing units.

7 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the  
8 rental housing revolving fund.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to be  
12 deposited into the rental housing revolving fund.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the rental housing  
14 revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
15 necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the purposes specified  
16 in section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
2 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of  
3 this part.

4 PART II

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

- 12 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing  
13 directly from the streets and shelters without a  
14 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
- 15 (2) Providing robust support services for program  
16 participants that are predicated on assertive  
17 engagement rather than coercion;
- 18 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as  
19 program participants in housing first programs;

- 1           (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions
- 2                   rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
- 3                   program participant commitments to recovery; and
- 4           (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
- 5                   protections as provided by law.

6           Housing first is a nationally recognized best practice and  
7 has been proven to be an effective approach to helping people  
8 experiencing chronic homelessness get off of the streets in  
9 several cities. In Portland, Oregon, the housing first program  
10 helped reduce the number of chronically homeless people sleeping  
11 outside by seventy per cent. In Los Angeles, California, for  
12 each chronically homeless person placed in housing first, Los  
13 Angeles saved \$80,000 over two years. Similar results in  
14 Denver, Colorado; Quincy, Massachusetts; and Portland, Maine  
15 show that housing first is effective in reducing chronic  
16 homelessness. Currently, the housing first program only serves  
17 the island of Oahu, despite the needs of individuals on  
18 neighboring islands.

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 the Hawaii residents living on the



1 neighbor islands who are chronically homeless and who are often  
2 the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult to serve.

3 SECTION 5. 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 2016-2017 for  
6 continued implementation of the State's housing first program  
7 and expansion of the program to the neighbor islands to assist  
8 residents who are chronically homeless.

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

11 PART III

12 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that the Hawaii public  
13 housing authority is the sole statewide public housing agency of  
14 the State. The Hawaii public housing authority's portfolio of  
15 eighty-five properties comprises 6,195 units that serve over  
16 6,100 families, or more than 20,000 individuals.

17 The Hawaii public housing authority's aging housing stock  
18 continues to have an extensive capital need that is underfunded  
19 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
20 Development. Additional funding is needed to modernize, repair,  
21 and maintain many of the State's public housing units.



1 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to improve  
2 the quality of existing public housing stock in the State.

3 SECTION 7. 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 2016-2017 for the  
6 repair and maintenance of the Hawaii public housing authority's  
7 existing public housing stock.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public  
9 housing authority for the purposes of this part.

10 PART IV

11 SECTION 8. 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 2016-2017 for a  
14 rental assistance program, also known as the shallow subsidy  
15 program, within the department of human services, for homeless  
16 working individuals and their families who are ready to rent  
17 permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing;  
18 provided that:

- 19 (1) The maximum subsidy shall be \$500 per month and to  
20 qualify for the subsidy, a household shall pay a





**Report Title:**

Housing Omnibus; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes various appropriations for various housing programs.

(HB2244 HD1)

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

