
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
11 much 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
15 be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the purposes
16 specified in section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



- 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
5 much 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 and to
3 authorize the establishment and filling of one full-time
4 equivalent position to assist in the administration of the rent
5 supplement program.

6 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
9 the repair and maintenance of the Hawaii public housing
10 authority's existing public housing stock.

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

13 SECTION 8. From fiscal year 2016-2017, the governor may
14 establish and the Hawaii public housing authority may fill 1.00
15 full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) public housing specialist II
16 position within the Hawaii public housing authority to assist in
17 the administration of the rent supplement program pursuant to
18 part VIII of chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided
19 that the personal services cost of the position shall be funded
20 from the base budget of the rent supplement program; provided
21 further that the rent supplement program shall coordinate



1 additional services of case management, financial literacy, and
2 employment training.

3 PART IV

4 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for a
7 rental assistance program, also known as the rapid re-housing
8 program, within the department of human services, for homeless
9 working individuals and their families who are ready to rent
10 permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing;
11 provided that:

12 (1) The maximum subsidy shall be \$500 per month and to
13 qualify for the subsidy, a household shall pay a
14 minimum of forty per cent of their adjusted gross
15 income for rent; and

16 (2) A household's adjusted gross income shall be
17 calculated in the same manner as calculated by the
18 Hawaii public housing authority to qualify for public
19 housing under the authority's control.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 human services for the purposes of this part; provided that the



1 sum appropriated for staff within the homeless programs office
2 and for program and administrative costs associated with
3 establishing and operating the rapid re-housing program shall be
4 expended by the department of human services through a contract
5 issued pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
6 the purposes of this part.

7 PART V

8 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Housing Omnibus; Appropriation

Description:

Makes appropriations to fund and support various housing programs. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

