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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Admission Act,  
2 as well as article XII of the Hawaii constitution, establish  
3 certain fiduciary duties regarding the use of state funds for  
4 the benefit of native Hawaiians to administered by the  
5 department of Hawaiian home lands.

6           The legislature also finds that article XII of the state  
7 constitution establishes the office of Hawaiian affairs, which  
8 has the duty and purpose of promoting and protecting the rights  
9 of Native Hawaiians, including by using its share of public land  
10 trust revenues for the betterment of the conditions of Native  
11 Hawaiians.

12           Hawaii has one of the largest homeless populations per  
13 capita in the United States. Multiple state agencies including  
14 the department of health and the department of human services  
15 are currently tasked with providing services to assist homeless  
16 individuals in finding shelter and permanent housing as well as  
17 health and educational services. One of the largest



1 contributing factors to Hawaii's high incidence of homelessness  
2 is the lack of affordable permanent housing for at-risk or  
3 socioeconomically challenged individuals.

4 Data shows that Native Hawaiians make up a significant  
5 portion of the homeless population in Hawaii. Many of these  
6 individuals and their families are receiving or waiting to  
7 receive homeless services from the State. All homeless Native  
8 Hawaiians are beneficiaries of the office of Hawaiian affairs  
9 and many are beneficiaries or successors to beneficiaries of the  
10 department of Hawaiian home lands.

11 Pursuant to the recent first circuit court ruling in *Nelson*  
12 *v. Hawaiian Homes Commission*, the legislature is required to  
13 appropriate sufficient sums of money toward the administrative  
14 and operating expenses of the department of Hawaiian home lands  
15 in the amount of no less than twenty-eight million dollars.  
16 This decision was rendered by the court to address the  
17 plaintiffs' claim that, as department of Hawaiian home lands  
18 beneficiaries, they had not been awarded Hawaiian homestead  
19 leases in a timely fashion. There are approximately twenty-  
20 seven thousand native Hawaiians on the department of Hawaiian  
21 home lands waitlist and an unknown number of native Hawaiians



1 not on that waitlist who are also department of Hawaiian home  
2 lands beneficiaries. The number of successors to these native  
3 Hawaiians who are eligible to inherit a Hawaiian homestead lease  
4 is not known. The number of native Hawaiians and their  
5 successors who are also eligible for or waiting for low-income  
6 or other public housing through the Hawaii public housing  
7 authority or other state housing programs is also unknown. The  
8 number of native Hawaiians and their successors who are homeless  
9 or at risk of becoming homeless and are currently receiving  
10 services through the department of health or the department of  
11 human services is also unknown.

12 The legislature finds that a native Hawaiian housing task  
13 force that will identify duplicative housing-related services  
14 and opportunities for cooperation across agencies that serve the  
15 same communities is an essential step to ensure that the State  
16 pursues the most efficient and effective approach to relieving  
17 homelessness and the affordable housing crisis in Hawaii.

18 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Native Hawaiian  
19 housing task force to identify duplicative housing-related  
20 services among state agencies that serve Native Hawaiians to  
21 improve efficiency in the delivery of those services.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Native Hawaiian  
2 housing task force, attached to the office of Hawaiian affairs  
3 for administrative purposes, to review housing-related services  
4 provided by state agencies that serve Native Hawaiians. The  
5 task force shall identify duplicative services among state  
6 agencies and recommend ways in which the delivery of those  
7 services may be improved, with an emphasis on expeditiously  
8 providing services to Native Hawaiians in highest need.

9 (b) Each of the following agencies shall appoint a  
10 representative member to the task force:

- 11 (1) Department of Hawaiian home lands;
- 12 (2) Department of human services;
- 13 (3) Office of the governor;
- 14 (4) Office of Hawaiian affairs;
- 15 (5) Hawaii community development authority;
- 16 (6) Hawaii public housing authority; and
- 17 (7) Hawaii housing finance and development corporation.

18 (c) The task force shall elect a chairperson from among  
19 its members. Members of the task force shall receive no  
20 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for



1 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the  
2 performance of their duties on the task force.

3 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
4 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
6 the regular session of 2017.

7 (e) The task force shall be dissolved on June 30, 2017.

8 SECTION 3. 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 2016-2017 to  
11 establish the Native Hawaiian housing task force to review  
12 housing-related services provided by state agencies that serve  
13 Native Hawaiians.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
15 Hawaiian affairs for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 24,  
17 2088.



**Report Title:**

Native Hawaiian Housing Task Force; Office of Hawaiian Affairs;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Native Hawaiian Housing Task Force,  
administratively attached to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to  
identify duplicative services and improve efficiency in  
providing housing-related services to Native Hawaiians.  
Requires a report. Makes an appropriation. (HB2750 HD1)

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

