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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "§346-   Housing first voucher program.   (a) There is  
5 established within the department, the housing first voucher  
6 program to provide vouchers to provider agencies to assist  
7 qualified individuals in obtaining rental housing.

8           (b) The department shall:

9           (1) Contract with provider agencies or implement programs  
10           within the department to locate and obtain rental  
11           housing for qualified individuals; and

12           (2) Refer qualified individuals to provider agencies or  
13           department programs with available housing first  
14           vouchers.

15           (c) A provider agency or department program that receives  
16 a housing first voucher under this section shall place qualified  
17 individuals in rental housing units obtained by the provider



1 agency or department program and funded by housing first  
2 vouchers. The provider agency or department program shall:  
3       (1) Identify appropriate rental housing units;  
4       (2) Enter into rental contracts with the landlord of the  
5             identified units to be occupied by qualified  
6             individuals;  
7       (3) Make direct payments, funded by housing first  
8             vouchers, to landlords pursuant to rental contracts  
9             and chapter 521;  
10       (4) Place qualified individuals in the rental housing  
11             units; and  
12       (5) Provide or arrange for appropriate support services to  
13             successfully maintain the qualified individual's  
14             tenancy.  
15       (d) The contract between the provider agency or department  
16 program and the landlord of the rental housing unit shall be  
17 subject to chapter 521 and shall include the initial rent of the  
18 unit, any redetermined rent of the unit, the contract term of  
19 the unit, and the rights and responsibilities of the provider  
20 agency or department program, landlord, and tenant.



1       (e) Any voucher issued under this section shall be  
2 retained by the respective provider agency or department  
3 program. In cases where a rental housing unit vacancy occurs,  
4 the provider agency or department program shall identify a new  
5 qualified individual to fill the vacancy and shall inform the  
6 landlord. In the case of termination of the rental contract,  
7 the landlord shall provide notice to the qualified individual  
8 and the provider agency or department program pursuant to the  
9 terms of the rental contract and chapter 521. The provider  
10 agency or department program shall identify, obtain, and  
11 contract for a replacement rental housing unit.

12       (f) Voucher assistance payments under this section shall  
13 be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds as  
14 specified under the housing first special fund under section  
15 346-377.

16       (g) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with  
17 chapter 91 to implement this section.

18       (h) As used in this section:

19       "Qualified individual" means a chronically homeless  
20 individual as defined in section 346-378 whom a provider agency



1 or department program deems qualified for placement in rental  
2 housing under this section."

3 SECTION 2. Section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) Moneys in the housing first special fund shall be  
6 administered and expended by the department of human services  
7 and shall be used to provide housing first programs and  
8 services[-]; provided that per cent of the moneys deposited  
9 into the special fund each fiscal year shall be used for the  
10 housing first voucher program under section 346- ."

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 2015-2016 and the  
14 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2016-2017 to be deposited into the housing first special  
16 fund under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the housing first  
18 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
19 necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the sum of \$ or  
20 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017  
21 for the purposes of this Act.



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1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

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

5           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mark J. Hasbani

JAN 23 2015



# H.B. NO. 734

**Report Title:**

Housing First Voucher Program; Homelessness

**Description:**

Establishes the housing first voucher program within the Department of Human Services. Appropriates general funds to the Housing First Special Fund to implement the program.

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

