
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that housing first
2 programs are a collaborative effort between the department of
3 human services and the United States Department of Housing and
4 Urban Development that provides housing and support services for
5 chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an
6 addiction or mental illness, or both. The principles of housing
7 first programs include:

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



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- 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 The housing first programs in the State closely resemble
7 the requirements of the United States Department of Housing and
8 Urban Development shelter plus care program and the Veterans
9 Administration veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher
10 program for homeless veterans. In its December 2011 report to
11 the legislature pursuant to section 346-378, Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes, the department of human services reported that the
13 State has six hundred fifty-eight permanent housing placements
14 plus support services through the shelter plus care and
15 veteran's assisted supportive housing voucher programs.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
17 department of human services to support the State's housing
18 first programs in assisting Hawaii's chronically homeless who
19 are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult
20 to serve.



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1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 to be
4 deposited to the credit of the housing first special fund
5 established under section 346-377, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
6 the department of human services to continue to administer
7 housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in
8 the State.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the housing first
10 special fund the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the department of human
12 services to continue to administer housing first programs for
13 chronically homeless individuals in the State.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 human services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mark H. Hask

JAN 26 2015



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Report Title:

Appropriation; Housing First

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals.

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