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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. 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 the streets and 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;



- 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.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 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 \$ 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, 2050.



**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. (HB765 HD1)

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

