

JAN 21 2016

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;



- 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 Act is to appropriate funds to the
20 department of human services to support the State's housing
21 first programs in assisting the rest of Hawaii's residents

S.B. NO. 2090

1 outside of Oahu who are chronically homeless and who are often
2 the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult to serve.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
5 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 outside of Oahu to assist residents
8 who are chronically homeless.

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

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

12

INTRODUCED BY: Shianne Chun Cleveland
Breanne Hunt
[Signature]
[Signature]
Cherene Wischke
[Signature]
[Signature]



S.B. NO. 2090

Report Title:

Appropriation; Housing First

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first program, and to expand the housing first program outside of Oahu, for chronically homeless individuals.

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

