

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the
2 highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronic unsheltered
4 homeless per capita of any state. Currently, an estimated 7,620
5 people are living on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii.
6 Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach using
7 interventions targeted to the particular characteristics of the
8 population being served.

9 The legislature further finds that outreach is a critical
10 piece of the coordinated entry system. The legislature finds
11 that more strategic, coordinated outreach is needed to
12 assertively serve the growing percentage of homeless persons who
13 are not living in shelter programs. As the counties and the
14 State increase enforcement efforts in parks and public areas,
15 outreach to homeless persons becomes even more significant.
16 State efforts for outreach have focused on individual adults and
17 families with children.



1 The legislature also finds that unaccompanied homeless
2 youth are often hard to locate and identify and are particularly
3 vulnerable to exploitation. Between 2000 and 2010, over thirty
4 per cent of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away
5 from home. Outreach is especially critical to help newly
6 homeless youth navigate the social services system to find safe
7 alternatives to homelessness. Youth service providers report
8 that the number of homeless youth have been increasing each
9 year. The legislature further finds that the State needs to
10 address youth homelessness to prevent these homeless youth from
11 becoming homeless adults.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional funds
13 to the department of human services, including the office of
14 youth services, to provide outreach services.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,700,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
18 additional outreach to homeless individuals and families with
19 children.

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



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
4 outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
6 youth services of the department of human services for the
7 purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: Joanne Chun Oakland
Breene Smith



S.B. NO. 2340

Report Title:

Homeless; Outreach; Youth

Description:

Appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. Appropriates funds to the department of human services.

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