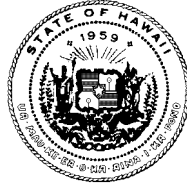


# SB 2335

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION.  
Report Title: Homeless Prevention; Appropriation (\$)  
Description: Appropriates \$55,000 to expand the emergency rent and utility assistance program within the state homeless programs office.  
Companion:  
Package: None  
Current Referral: HMS/HOU, WAM  
Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, Riviere

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH  
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2335 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this proposed bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$55,000 to expand the emergency rent and utility assistance program within the DHS Homeless Programs Office.

Currently the DHS administers a program called the State Homeless Emergency Grant (SHEG) program that is geared toward meeting emergency rent, utility and other financial needs to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. Historically SHEG has been funded at \$500,000 statewide. In October 2015 the Governor's Emergency Proclamation added \$300,000 more to two contracts for this service to assist additional individuals and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.