

JAN 19 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a
2 program within the department of human services to assist
3 homeless individuals who suffer from multiple chronic diseases
4 find housing opportunities in the community and to obtain
5 federal moneys to implement and carry out the program.

6 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
8 as follows:

9 **"CHAPTER**

10 **HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC DISEASE**

11 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

12 "Chronic disease" means a disease lasting three months or
13 longer, including but not limited to heart disease, history of
14 stroke, cancer, diabetes, obesity, arthritis, and asthma.

15 "Eligible housing provider" means a housing unit owner who
16 has been approved by the department of human services to
17 participate in the housing program for homeless individuals with



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1 chronic disease to provide housing for a qualifying individual
2 and family, if applicable, pursuant to this chapter.

3 "Qualifying individual" means a homeless individual who has
4 two or more chronic diseases.

5 § -2 Purpose. The purpose of the housing program for
6 homeless individuals with chronic disease is to help homeless
7 individuals suffering from two or more chronic diseases to be
8 placed in safe and secure housing. Furthermore, this program
9 attempts to leverage federal dollars in support of chronic
10 disease management.

11 § -3 Housing program for homeless individuals with
12 chronic disease; established. (a) There is established a
13 housing program for homeless individuals with chronic disease
14 within the department of human services.

15 (b) The department of human services, in collaboration
16 with the department of health and the coordinator on
17 homelessness under the office of the governor, shall administer
18 the program pursuant to this chapter.

19 (c) The department of human services shall adopt rules
20 pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to carry out the purposes of
21 this chapter.



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1 § -4 Eligible housing providers; qualifying individuals;
2 program procedures; registration. (a) Beginning January 1,
3 2018, the department of human services shall solicit
4 applications from housing unit owners in the State to register
5 with the department of human services to become eligible housing
6 providers under the program. The department shall approve
7 eligible housing providers for participation in the program
8 based on standards and requirements established by the
9 department and shall create a list of eligible housing providers
10 that may provide housing to a qualifying individual and family,
11 if applicable; provided that there shall be no more than one
12 thousand eligible housing providers at any one time.

13 (b) The department of human services, in collaboration
14 with the coordinator on homelessness under the office of the
15 governor, shall identify qualifying individuals for
16 participation in the program. Upon consent by the qualifying
17 individual and subject to an evaluation by the department of
18 health that the qualifying individual has two or more chronic
19 diseases, the department of human services shall assign the
20 qualifying individual to an eligible housing provider and assist
21 the qualifying individual and family, if applicable, in moving



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1 to housing provided by an eligible housing provider; provided
2 that no more than individuals shall occupy a single
3 housing unit provided by an eligible housing provider.

4 (c) If an eligible housing provider wishes to be removed
5 from the list of eligible housing providers created pursuant to
6 subsection (a), the eligible housing provider shall notify the
7 department of human services in writing. After receiving the
8 written notification by an eligible housing provider wishing to
9 be removed from the list, the department shall remove the
10 housing unit owner from the list and stop payments to the
11 housing unit owner.

12 (d) If a qualifying individual wishes to leave the housing
13 unit provided by the eligible housing provider, the qualifying
14 individual shall submit such notice in writing to the department
15 of human services.

16 (e) If there is a dispute between a qualifying individual
17 and an eligible housing provider, the department of human
18 services, in consultation with the department of the attorney
19 general, shall review the dispute and determine the appropriate
20 action.



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1 **§ -5 Payments; repair and maintenance.** The department
2 of human services shall pay each eligible housing provider
3 \$1,320 per month per housing unit that houses a qualifying
4 individual and family, if applicable, to cover monthly rent and
5 any associated repairs and maintenance costs; provided that the
6 eligible housing provider shall receive payment pursuant to this
7 section even if the housing unit provided by the eligible
8 housing provider is not occupied by a qualifying individual;
9 provided further that the department shall not be responsible
10 for any other costs of an eligible housing provider.

11 **§ -6 Inspection.** The department of human services shall
12 inspect housing units provided by eligible housing providers on
13 an annual basis at a time scheduled by the department. If the
14 department determines that the housing unit provided by an
15 eligible housing provider is not suitable for occupancy, the
16 department may disqualify the eligible housing provider from
17 participating in the program.

18 **§ -7 Liability.** The State shall not be liable for the
19 death of or injury to persons, or the loss of or damage to
20 property, resulting from participation in the program."



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1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2018-2019 for the housing program for homeless individuals with
6 chronic disease pursuant to this Act.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

10

INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Housing; Homeless; Chronic Disease; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the housing program for homeless individuals with chronic disease. Appropriates funds for the program.

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