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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has a gap  
2 in services for homeless individuals with severe mental illness,  
3 as these individuals often cycle between homelessness, emergency  
4 room treatment, incarceration, and hospitalization. Individuals  
5 with severe mental illness typically become chronically homeless  
6 and further burden the health care system through excessive use  
7 of expensive emergency department, inpatient treatment, and  
8 crisis services. Due to their mental illness, these individuals  
9 routinely reject offered services and remain on the street,  
10 putting themselves at risk of further injury and creating a  
11 significant burden on the communities where they reside.

12       The State of Hawaii has always authorized the involuntary  
13 commitment of individuals to mental health services. However,  
14 currently no mental health service providers in Hawaii provide  
15 housing and services for individuals subject to non-forensic  
16 court-ordered involuntary commitment. By establishing a pilot  
17 project to provide housing and mental health treatment for



1 homeless individuals with severe mental illness, the State can  
2 directly place these individuals into housing and provide mental  
3 health care services in a timely and impactful manner.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
5 human services, in consultation with the department of health,  
6 to establish a pilot project to provide housing and mental  
7 health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental  
8 illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary  
9 hospitalization pursuant to part IV of chapter 334, Hawaii  
10 Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services, in  
12 consultation with the department of health, shall establish a  
13 pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and  
14 mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe  
15 mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary  
16 hospitalization to a psychiatric facility, pursuant to part IV  
17 of chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with the goal of  
18 enabling these individuals to find permanent housing through  
19 housing first programs.



1 (b) No more than ten severely mentally ill homeless  
2 individuals may receive shelter and mental health treatment at  
3 the facility at any given time.

4 (c) The department of human services shall use a suitable  
5 unused state facility to provide shelter and mental health  
6 treatment services; provided that the department shall make any  
7 necessary changes to the facility to serve individuals with  
8 severe mental illness.

9 (d) The pilot project shall end on June 30, . The  
10 department of human services, in consultation with the  
11 governor's coordinator on homelessness, shall submit a report  
12 detailing findings and recommendations regarding the pilot  
13 project, including findings regarding the pilot project's  
14 contribution to successfully transitioning homeless individuals  
15 with severe mental illness to permanent housing, challenges or  
16 failures of the pilot project, and any proposed legislation, to  
17 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
18 of the regular session of .

19 (e) The department of human services may adopt rules  
20 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to effectuate  
21 this Act.



1       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to  
4 establish a pilot project to operate a facility, including  
5 administrative expenses and any necessary renovations to the  
6 facility, to provide shelter and mental health treatment for  
7 homeless individuals with severe mental illness pursuant to this  
8 Act.

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

11       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Individuals with Severe Mental Illness; Homeless; Facility;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility. Appropriates funds. (HB2021 HD1)

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