

JAN 17 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
3 to read as follows:

4 **"PART . HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM**

5 **§356D-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

6 "Participating landlord" means a property owner or property
7 manager who has entered an agreement with the authority to
8 participate in the housing support program and offer rental
9 housing units to eligible individuals or families.

10 "Participating unit" means a rental housing unit that has
11 been designated by a participating landlord for occupancy by an
12 eligible individual or family.

13 **§356D-B Housing support program; established.** (a) There
14 is established within the authority a housing support program
15 that shall provide housing support payments to participating
16 landlords on behalf of persons or families who meet the
17 eligibility requirements provided in section 356D-C.



(b) The authority shall establish rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purpose of implementing this part.

§356D-C Eligibility for housing support payment. (a) A person or family is eligible for housing support payments if that person or family:

(1) Meets the definition of "qualified tenant" under section 356D-153 and does not own personal property and assets in excess of \$10,000; or

(2) Is a participant in a housing first program or service established pursuant to section 346-378.

(b) The authority shall conduct annual eligibility evaluations of all persons or families who are receiving housing support payments.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, income from other state or federal need-based benefit programs shall not be included in any calculation to determine eligibility for housing support payments.

(d) The authority shall evaluate the eligibility of a person or family before making housing benefit payments on behalf of that person or family. The eligibility of a person or



1 family who is receiving housing support payment benefits shall
2 be reevaluated at least once every twelve months.

3 **§356D-D Housing support payments; monthly rates.** (a) The
4 authority shall negotiate monthly support payment rates with
5 participating landlords; provided that rates shall not exceed
6 the total of:

7 (1) Sixty per cent of the federal poverty level, divided
8 by twelve and rounding down the quotient, for a family
9 with a number of members equal to the intended
10 occupancy of the participating unit; and

11 (2) The maximum allotment authorized by the federal food
12 stamp program for a single individual that is in
13 effect on the first day of July each year.

14 (b) The authority shall make housing support payments to
15 participating landlords on behalf of qualified persons and
16 families who are occupying participating units. The method and
17 frequency of housing support payments shall be specified in the
18 negotiations between the authority and each participating
19 landlord pursuant to this section.

20 **§356D-E Housing support program special fund.** There is
21 established in the state treasury the housing support program



1 special fund to be administered by the authority and into which
 2 shall be deposited appropriations made by the legislature to the
 3 special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be used for the
 4 purpose of making housing support payments pursuant to this
 5 part."

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be
 9 deposited into the housing support program special fund.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the housing
 11 support program special fund the sum of \$ or so much
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
 13 housing support program to make housing support payments on
 14 behalf of eligible persons and families.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
 16 housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

18 INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2024

Report Title:

Housing Support Program; Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Rental Housing; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the housing support program to make payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families. Establishes guidelines to determine eligibility for the program. Appropriates funds for housing support payments.

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