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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness in  
2       Hawaii has reached epidemic proportions. Homelessness impacts  
3       residents and visitors alike and more must be done to mitigate  
4       homelessness through various services. Since 2011, the governor  
5       has appointed a coordinator on homelessness to coordinate  
6       homelessness efforts statewide. The Hawaii interagency council  
7       on homelessness was established by Act 105, Session Laws of  
8       Hawaii 2012 (codified as part XVIII of chapter 346, Hawaii  
9       Revised Statutes), with the governor's coordinator on  
10      homelessness designated to serve as chair. However, the  
11      governor's coordinator on homelessness position has not been  
12      statutorily established.

13      The purpose of this Act is to establish clear lines of  
14      accountability and to empower the governor's coordinator on  
15      homelessness by:

16      (1) Statutorily establishing the position; and



(2) Specifying that the governor's coordinator on homelessness reports directly to the governor, thereby allowing direct access to agencies for more efficient coordination.

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§346- Governor's coordinator on homelessness; establishment; responsibilities.** (a) There is established within the department for administrative purposes only, a full-time governor's coordinator on homelessness to organize, manage, and oversee the coordination of statewide efforts to end homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall report directly to the governor and shall:

(1) Serve as the principal officer in state government responsible for the performance, development, and oversight of programs, policies, and activities relating to homelessness;



- 1        (2) Be responsible for ensuring the development,  
2        implementation, and management of plans developed by  
3        the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness  
4        pursuant to section 346-381;
- 5        (3) Coordinate with the homeless coordinator of each  
6        county to ensure statewide coordination, minimize  
7        duplication of efforts, and monitor and benchmark  
8        progress on the mitigation and management of  
9        homelessness in each county;
- 10       (4) Communicate with departments and agencies providing  
11       rental subsidies and housing assistance; and
- 12       (5) Develop and implement plans to increase affordable  
13       housing units through the identification of viable  
14       lands and supporting housing projects to ensure  
15       coordination and collaboration.
- 16       (b) The governor's coordinator on homelessness may:
- 17       (1) Employ persons exempt from chapters 76 and 89; and  
18       (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the  
19       purposes of this section.
- 20       (c) The office of the governor shall provide office space  
21       to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and related staff;



1 provided that if the office of the governor is unable to provide  
2 adequate office space, the department shall provide adequate  
3 office space to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and  
4 related staff."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019:

8 (1) To establish the governor's coordinator on  
9 homelessness as a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
10 position; and

11 (2) For other expenses of the governor's coordinator on  
12 homelessness, including hiring of necessary staff.

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

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



# S.B. NO. 2906 S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; DHS; Establishment;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. Attaches the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, but requires the position to report to the Governor. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD1)

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