
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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 is one
2 of the State's most significant social challenges. Homeless
3 persons face a wide range of issues, including general health
4 obstacles, mental illness, and substance abuse. The legislature
5 also finds that homelessness impacts Hawaii's residents and
6 visitors alike, and more must be done to mitigate homelessness
7 and its associated issues.

8 The legislature further finds that since 2011, the governor
9 has appointed a coordinator on homelessness to organize, manage,
10 and oversee the coordination of statewide efforts to address
11 homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness serves
12 as chair of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness, an
13 advisory body established by Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii
14 2012.

15 The purpose of this Act is to formalize the position of the
16 governor's coordinator on homelessness by establishing clear



1 standards of accountability and empowering the governor's
2 coordinator on homelessness by:

- 3 (1) Establishing the position in statute;
- 4 (2) Requiring that the governor's coordinator on
5 homelessness report directly to the governor, thus
6 allowing direct access to agencies for more efficient
7 coordination; and
- 8 (3) Appropriating funds for the coordinator position and
9 other associated expenses, including the hiring of
10 necessary staff.

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

14 "§346- _____ Governor's coordinator on homelessness;
15 establishment; responsibilities. (a) There is established
16 within the department for administrative purposes only, a
17 governor's coordinator on homelessness to organize, manage, and
18 oversee the coordination of statewide efforts to end
19 homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall
20 report directly to the governor and shall:



- 1 (1) Serve as the principal officer in state government
2 responsible for the performance, development, and
3 oversight of programs, policies, and activities
4 relating to homelessness;
- 5 (2) Be responsible for ensuring the development,
6 implementation, and management of plans developed by
7 the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness
8 pursuant to section 346-381;
- 9 (3) Coordinate with the homeless coordinator of each
10 county to ensure statewide coordination, minimize
11 duplication of efforts, and monitor and benchmark
12 progress on the mitigation and management of
13 homelessness in each county;
- 14 (4) Communicate with departments and agencies that provide
15 rental subsidies and housing assistance; and
- 16 (5) Develop and implement plans to increase affordable
17 housing units through the identification of viable
18 lands and supporting housing projects to ensure
19 coordination and collaboration.
- 20 (b) The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall:
- 21 (1) Employ persons exempt from chapters 76 and 89; and



1 (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the
2 purposes of this section.

3 (c) The office of the governor shall provide office space
4 to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and related staff;
5 provided that if the office of the governor is unable to provide
6 adequate office space, the department shall provide adequate
7 office space to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and
8 related staff."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2020-2021:

14 (1) To establish the governor's coordinator on
15 homelessness as a full-time equivalent position; and

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

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

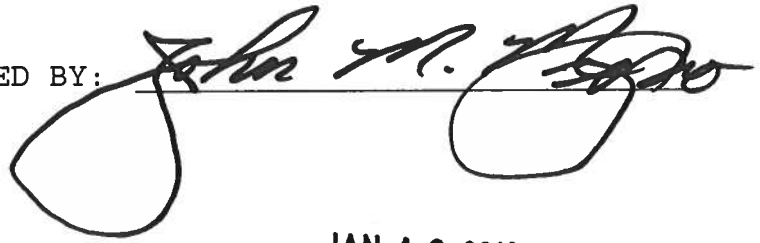
20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Pappas", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

JAN 18 2019



H.B. NO. 684

Report Title:

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

Description:

Establishes in statute the position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. 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. Appropriates funds.

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