
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 most pressing problems in Hawaii, which requires a
3 robust, comprehensive, long-term solution to address Hawaii's
4 affordable housing and homelessness crisis. One important
5 component of the solution is ensuring that low-income kupuna are
6 not forced into homelessness through a combination of fixed
7 incomes and rapidly rising rents. Therefore, a rent subsidy
8 program targeted toward assisting kupuna in this situation is
9 necessary.

10 Over the last fifty years, the number of cost-burdened
11 renters, those paying more than thirty per cent of their income
12 for rent, has significantly increased. Today, almost half of
13 renters in the State pay more than thirty per cent of their
14 income for rent. High housing costs have driven more and more
15 Hawaii residents into homelessness and now Hawaii has the
16 highest homelessness rate in the nation.



1 The legislature finds that by making smart investments in
2 homelessness and housing, using data-driven practices, and
3 improving coordination, Hawaii has gradually begun to turn the
4 tide in the homelessness crisis. In 2017, Hawaii's homelessness
5 rate went down for the first time in years, a trend that
6 continued in 2018. During the regular session of 2018, the
7 legislature made unprecedented levels of investment in low-
8 income housing and homelessness, appropriating \$200,000,000 for
9 the rental housing revolving fund, \$30,000,000 for ohana zones,
10 and \$13,500,000 for proven-effective and promising homelessness
11 programs.

12 To turn back fifty years of growth in Hawaii's housing and
13 homelessness crisis, investments of this scale must be made
14 consistently in the coming years. Hawaii must prioritize
15 programs that are the most cost-effective and target the most
16 vulnerable populations, such as the State's kupuna. The latest
17 Homeless Service Utilization Report (2017) found that there are
18 1,386 homeless elders in Hawaii. Many more elders face
19 homelessness as rents skyrocket. Due to the fixed incomes of
20 elders, a long-term rental assistance program is needed.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish the long-term
2 rental assistance pilot program for kupuna.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the long-term rental
4 assistance pilot program to be administered by the Hawaii public
5 housing authority. The Hawaii public housing authority shall
6 enter into memoranda of agreement with the counties to implement
7 this Act. The Hawaii public housing authority and the counties
8 shall:

9 (1) Provide long-term rental assistance to individuals who
10 are over sixty years of age and are homeless or at
11 imminent risk of becoming homeless;

12 (2) Ensure that individuals participating in the program
13 will not pay more than fifty per cent of their income
14 for rent; and

15 (3) Provide housing counseling and landlord assistance to
16 assist elders in obtaining or retaining permanent
17 housing.

18 (b) The Hawaii public housing authority may work with the
19 executive office on aging to merge the long-term rental
20 assistance pilot program with existing programs if, in the



1 opinion of the Hawaii public housing authority, it is more
2 efficient to do so.

3 (c) The Hawaii public housing authority may establish
4 rules and qualification standards for participants of the long-
5 term rental assistance pilot program.

6 (d) The Hawaii public housing authority shall require the
7 long-term rental assistance program participants to participate
8 in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System for homeless
9 services.

10 (e) The Hawaii public housing authority shall require the
11 provider of the long-term assistance pilot program to input data
12 into the United States Department of Housing and Urban
13 Development's Homeless Management Information System.

14 (f) The Hawaii public housing authority shall submit a
15 report to the legislature of its findings and recommendations,
16 including any proposed legislation, regarding the long-term
17 rental assistance pilot program no later than one month prior to
18 the convening of the regular sessions of 2020, 2021, 2022, and
19 2023.

20 (g) The long-term rental assistance pilot program shall
21 cease to exist on June 30, 2022.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2020-2021 for the long-term rental assistance pilot program.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
7 public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for individuals over sixty years old who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Appropriates funds.
(SB1031 HD1)

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