
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many homeless
2 persons thrive when they have ready access to familiar support
3 groups and loving family members. Many homeless persons from
4 the continental United States are currently stranded in Hawaii,
5 lacking independent financial resources to return to their home
6 states.

7 The legislature further finds that homelessness continues
8 to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social
9 problems. Hawaii has limited resources for human services, and
10 homeless persons may find their families or home states better
11 equipped to provide support.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a return-to-home
13 program to assist the homeless with family reunification.

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



1 **"PART . RETURN-TO-HOME PROGRAM**

2 **§356D- Return-to-home program.** (a) There is
3 established within the authority a voluntary program to assist
4 eligible homeless persons in reuniting with family members in
5 their home states. The authority shall administer the program
6 and shall adopt the standards and framework necessary to
7 implement it.

8 (b) No person shall be eligible to participate in the
9 program unless:

- 10 (1) The person's participation is completely voluntary;
- 11 (2) The person has a support system in place in the home
12 state that is willing to receive and accommodate them;
- 13 (3) The person, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
14 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
15 the court to participate in the program; and
- 16 (4) The person is indigent and lacks the financial
17 resources to secure return transportation to the home
18 state.

19 (c) The authority shall actively seek the participation of
20 local airlines, cruise lines, charter companies, homeless



1 programs, travel agencies, and the visitor industry to implement
2 and coordinate the program.

3 (d) The authority shall also assist program participants
4 with preparations for the return trip, including assisting them
5 in obtaining proper identification, orienting them to airport
6 security, and providing them with the basics of personal care.

7 (e) The authority shall follow up with all program
8 participants within one month of return to their home states to
9 support their reunification efforts."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2020-2021 for implementing the return-to-home program, including
15 program costs and staff salaries.

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



H.B. NO. 1129

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Rida Cabonilla
John M. [Signature]
Gregory [Signature]
Brook [Signature]
Mark [Signature]
Ly n. [Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

JAN 23 2019



H.B. NO. 1129

Report Title:

Homeless; Return-to-Home; Appropriation

Description:

Assists the homeless in reuniting with family in their home states. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

