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# 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, and a robust,  
3 comprehensive, long-term solution is needed to address Hawaii's  
4 affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

5           Nearly fifty years ago, in 1970, the State of Hawaii issued  
6 a report stating that Hawaii had been experiencing a "serious  
7 housing problem for many years", which had by then "become a  
8 crisis". In the decades since, the problem has worsened. The  
9 number of cost-burdened renters who pay more than thirty  
10 per cent of their income for rent has increased from less than a  
11 quarter of the population to over one half. High housing costs  
12 have driven more and more Hawaii residents into homelessness.

13           By making smart investments in homelessness programs and  
14 housing, using data-driven practices, and improving  
15 coordination, Hawaii has gradually begun to turn the tide on the  
16 homelessness crisis. In 2017, Hawaii's homelessness rate went  
17 down for the first time in eight years. In 2018, the



1 legislature made unprecedented levels of investment in low-  
2 income housing and homelessness solutions, appropriating  
3 \$200,000,000 for the rental housing revolving fund, \$30,000,000  
4 for the ohana zones pilot program, and \$13,500,000 for other  
5 homelessness programs.

6 The legislature further finds that investments of this  
7 scale must be made consistently in the coming years. Forty-  
8 seven per cent of the housing demand is for Hawaii's households  
9 earning below \$45,000 per year, while seventy-four per cent is  
10 for households earning below \$75,000 per year. Appropriations  
11 that allow for the rental housing revolving fund to be used to  
12 build housing at these affordability levels are critically  
13 important. Funding for this purpose needs to be steady,  
14 predictable, and long-term.

15 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of  
16 general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for deposit into  
17 the rental housing revolving fund for its authorized purposes.

18 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
19 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
21 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021



1 for deposit into the rental housing revolving fund for its  
2 authorized purposes.

3 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
4 Hawaii housing finance and development corporation for the  
5 purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
7 improvement projects authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
8 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
9 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
10 unencumbered as of June 30, 2022, shall lapse as of that date.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Rental Housing Revolving Fund; GO Bonds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for deposit into the rental housing revolving fund for its authorized purposes. Takes effect on 7/1/2025.  
(HD2)

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

