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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS.

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

1           SECTION 1. In 2015, the United States Department of  
2 Housing and Urban Development issued its definition of  
3 "chronically homeless." The purpose of this Act is to amend  
4 Hawaii's definition of "chronically homeless" to better align  
5 with the federal definition and to reduce confusion amongst  
6 providers, communities, and private partners.

7           SECTION 2. Section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

9           "(e) As used in this section, "chronically homeless  
10 individual" means [~~a homeless individual who has an addiction or~~  
11 ~~a mental illness, or both.~~]:

12           (1) A homeless individual with a mental illness,  
13           addiction, or physical disability who:

14           (A) Lives in a place not meant for human habitation,  
15           a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and

16           (B) Has been homeless and living as described in  
17           subparagraph (A) continuously for at least twelve  
18           months or on at least four separate occasions in

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1           the last three years, as long as the combined  
2           occasions equal at least twelve months and each  
3           break in homelessness separating the occasions  
4           included at least seven consecutive nights of not  
5           living as described in subparagraph (A). Stays  
6           in institutional care facilities for fewer than  
7           ninety days shall not constitute as a break in  
8           homelessness, but rather such stays are included  
9           in the twelve-month total, as long as the  
10          individual was living or residing in a place not  
11          meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an  
12          emergency shelter immediately before entering the  
13          institutional care facility;

14          (2) An individual who has been residing in an  
15          institutional care facility, including a jail,  
16          substance abuse or mental health treatment facility,  
17          hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than  
18          ninety days and met all of the criteria in paragraph  
19          (1) before entering that facility; or

20          (3) A family with an adult head of household (or if there  
21          is no adult in the family, a minor head of household)  
22          who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2),

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1           including a family whose composition has fluctuated  
2           while the head of household has been homeless."

3           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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7

INTRODUCED BY: 

BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2020

# H.B. NO. 2337

**Report Title:**

Chronically Homeless; Definition

**Description:**

Amends the definition of "chronically homeless" to provide clarity and improve the delivery and development of homeless services.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHRONICALLY HOMELESS.

PURPOSE: To amend the definition of "chronically homeless" to align with the federal definition and to reduce confusion among providers, communities, and private partners.

MEANS: Amend section 346-378(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development issued its final rule establishing the definition of "chronically homeless" in 24 C.F.R. § 578.3 (2017). The homeless services providers of the communities' continuum of care are required to use the definition in receipt of federal funds. Amending the State's definition of "chronically homeless" to better align with the federal agency's definition will allow more flexibility and consistency in the delivery of homeless services.

Impact on the public: Clarification will assist in improving the delivery and development of services for homeless individuals and families with a single definition funded by either federal or state agencies.

Impact on the department and other agencies:  
None.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: HMS 224.

OTHER AFFECTED

AGENCIES:

None.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval.