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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 the COVID-19  
2 pandemic has endangered lives around the world. With the  
3 threats to people's well-being, concerns about an over extended  
4 health care system, and record numbers of unemployment,  
5 communities have come together to create emergency areas to  
6 house and help those who are homeless.

7           The legislature further finds that COVID-19 will likely  
8 continue to pose risks to Hawaii until effective treatment or a  
9 vaccine are discovered and developed, and that it is unsafe to  
10 remove people from established emergency homes and services.

11           The legislature finds that ensuring public safety is  
12 paramount, and due to COVID-19, persistent homelessness, and a  
13 severe economic downturn, it is in the public interest to assist  
14 emergency homeless camps to temporarily provide shelter.

15           The purpose of this Act is to ensure the safety of those in  
16 emergency homeless camps by authorizing the board of land and  
17 natural resources to issue month to month revocable permits to

1 be used for temporary emergency sheltering and facilities for  
2 homeless persons on state lands.

3 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,  
4 the board of land and natural resources may issue month to month  
5 revocable permits to be used for the temporary emergency  
6 sheltering of and facilities for homeless persons on state lands  
7 under conditions and rent which will serve the best interest of  
8 the State; provided that any revocable permit issued pursuant to  
9 this Act shall be exempt from chapter 171 Hawaii Revised  
10 Statutes; provided further that a revocable permit may only be  
11 issued pursuant to this section if the person issued the  
12 revocable permit has a written agreement or partnership with the  
13 State or any political subdivision thereof.

14 (b) A person issued a revocable permit pursuant to this  
15 Act shall endeavor to meet all applicable state and county  
16 requirements, or if noncompliant due to the nature of the  
17 emergency, shall demonstrate good faith planning and progress to  
18 achieve and maintain compliance, or seek alternative locations  
19 for the long term sheltering of homeless persons.

20 (c) Each person issued a revocable permit or who resides  
21 on state-owned land leased pursuant to this Act, shall, in

1 writing, waive, release, indemnify, and hold harmless the State  
2 of Hawaii, its officers, agents, and employees from and against  
3 any and all claims arising out of or resulting from the lease or  
4 occupancy; provided that the waiver, release, indemnification,  
5 and hold harmless provided by this section shall survive the  
6 repeal of this section.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
8 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2022.

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**Report Title:**

Homelessness; Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
Emergency Shelter; Revocable Permits

**Description:**

Authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to issue revocable month to month temporary permits for the temporary emergency sheltering of and facilities for homeless persons on state lands. (Proposed HD1)

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