

S.B. NO. 2893

JAN 23 2020

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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Report Title:

Chronically Homeless; Definition

Description:

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

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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.

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EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon approval.