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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
2 highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the  
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronically  
4 unsheltered homeless per capita of any state. An estimated  
5 6,530 people live on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii.  
6 Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach that  
7 uses interventions that are targeted to the particular  
8 characteristics of the population being served. The state rent  
9 supplement for homeless families and individuals is critically  
10 necessary to address homelessness.

11           The state rent supplement program provides a "shallow", but  
12 sustained subsidy to struggling households. Unlike the "deep"  
13 subsidy housing choice voucher program, better known as the  
14 section 8 program, which helps families at the lowest ends of  
15 the income scale by bridging a wide affordability gap between  
16 income and housing costs, the state rent supplement program  
17 helps households who are closer to financial self-sufficiency



1 but still have a narrow affordability gap to fill. The state  
2 rent supplement program provides an ongoing subsidy, enabling  
3 homeless households or those at imminent risk of homelessness to  
4 close the affordability gap, maintain housing, and achieve self-  
5 sufficiency.

6 Because individual subsidies under state rent supplement  
7 programs are relatively low, the programs can resolve  
8 homelessness for a large number of individuals and families  
9 relative to the total cost of the subsidy program.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
11 the state rent supplement program.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
15 state rent supplement program established pursuant to section  
16 356D-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



S.B. NO. 2952  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Housing; State Rent Supplement Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the state rent supplement program. (SD1)

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

