
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 the homelessness
2 rate per capita in Hawaii is among the highest in the nation.
3 Hawaii also has the highest rate in the nation per capita of
4 chronically unsheltered homeless. According to the Hawaii
5 Homelessness Initiative Point in Time Report for 2020, an
6 estimated 6,458 people live on the streets and in shelters in
7 Hawaii. Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted
8 approach that uses interventions that are targeted to the
9 characteristics of the population being served. The state rent
10 supplement for homeless families and individuals is critically
11 necessary to address homelessness.

12 The legislature further finds that the state rent
13 supplement program, established pursuant to part VIII of
14 chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and administered by the
15 Hawaii public housing authority, provides a "shallow" but
16 sustained subsidy to struggling households. Unlike the "deep"
17 subsidy housing choice voucher program, better known as the



1 section 8 program, which helps families at the lowest ends of
2 the income scale by bridging a wide affordability gap between
3 income and housing costs, the state rent supplement program
4 helps households who are closer to financial self-sufficiency
5 but still have a narrow affordability gap to fill. The state
6 rent supplement program provides an ongoing subsidy, enabling
7 homeless households or those at imminent risk of homelessness to
8 close the affordability gap, maintain housing, and achieve self-
9 sufficiency.

10 Because individual subsidies under the state rent
11 supplement program is relatively low, the program can resolve
12 homelessness for many individuals and families relative to the
13 total cost of the subsidy program.

14 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 15 (1) Require the state rent supplement program to open its
16 statewide waiting list and provide rent supplements to
17 two hundred additional qualified tenants; and
- 18 (2) Appropriate funds for the program, including funding
19 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) public housing
20 specialist II position within the Hawaii public
21 housing authority.



1 SECTION 2. The state rent supplement program shall open
2 its statewide waiting list and provide rent supplements to two
3 hundred additional qualified tenants.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
7 the state rent supplement program, including funding for one
8 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) public housing specialist II
9 position within the Hawaii public housing authority.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Hawaii Public Housing Authority; State Rent Supplement Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the State Rent Supplement Program to open its statewide waiting list and provide rent supplements to two hundred additional qualified tenants. Appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for the program, including funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Public Housing Specialist II position within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. (SD1)

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