
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 many homeless
2 individuals thrive when they have ready access to familiar
3 support groups and loving family members. Many homeless
4 individuals from the continental United States are currently
5 stranded in the State, lacking independent financial resources
6 to return to their home states.

7 The legislature further finds that homelessness continues
8 to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social
9 problems. Hawaii has limited resources for human services, and
10 homeless individuals may find their families or home states
11 better equipped to provide support.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 human services to establish and appropriate funds for a
14 three-year return-to-home pilot program to assist eligible
15 homeless individuals with family reunification.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
17 coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program, to be



1 known as the return-to-home pilot program, to provide eligible
2 homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with
3 family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
4 department shall establish a public-private partnership by
5 contracting with eligible nonprofit organizations, for profit
6 organizations, or foundations to administer the pilot program
7 without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes.

9 (b) An individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
10 participate in the return-to-home pilot program if:

- 11 (1) The individual's participation is completely
12 voluntary;
- 13 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
14 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
15 the court to participate in the pilot program; and
- 16 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
17 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
18 to the individual's home state.

19 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
20 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this



1 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
2 shall be kept on file with the department of human services.

3 (d) The return-to-home pilot program shall actively seek
4 the participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
5 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
6 industry to coordinate and implement the pilot program.

7 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
8 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,
9 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
10 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
11 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

12 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
13 on June 30, 2026.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2024-2025 for implementation of the return-to-home pilot
19 program, including all program costs; provided that moneys
20 provided to any eligible nonprofit organization, for profit



1 organization, or foundation shall be matched in a dollar-for-
2 dollar basis.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
10 planner position within the department of human services to
11 draft rules, procure services, and oversee the return-to-home
12 pilot program.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

16



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a three-year Return-to-Home Pilot Program to provide eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with family and relatives in their home state. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the Return-to-Home Pilot Program and to establish one full-time equivalent planner position. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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