

JAN 25 2023

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 one of
2 the highest rates of homelessness per capita of any state in the
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate in the nation, per
4 capita, of chronically unsheltered homeless. According to the
5 Hawaii Homelessness Initiative Point in Time Count 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 targeted to the characteristics
9 of the population being served. The state rent supplement
10 program for homeless families and individuals is critically
11 necessary to address homelessness.

12 The legislature further finds that the state rent
13 supplement program provides a "shallow", but sustained subsidy
14 to struggling households. Unlike the "deep" subsidy housing
15 choice voucher program, better known as the section 8 program,
16 which helps families at the lowest ends of the income scale by
17 bridging a wide affordability gap between income and housing



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

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

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

14 SECTION 2. 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 the state rent supplement program established
19 pursuant to section 356D-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided
20 that the Hawaii public housing authority:



S.B. NO. 1255

- 1 (1) May enter into memoranda of agreement with the
- 2 counties or specialized non-profit organizations as
- 3 necessary to allocate and disburse the funds for the
- 4 state rent supplement program; and
- 5 (2) Shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised
- 6 Statutes, in selecting a specialized non-profit
- 7 organization to administer the allocation and
- 8 disbursement of the funds for the state rent
- 9 supplement program.

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

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

S.B. NO. 1255

Report Title:

Hawaii Public Housing Authority; State Rent Supplement Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority for
the state rent supplement program.

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