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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that "kauhale"  
2 traditionally means a Hawaiian village and houses members of an  
3 ohana, whether related by blood or not, who treat each other as  
4 extended family. The concept of kauhale maximizes the sense of  
5 community by recognizing and celebrating an individual's skills,  
6 knowledge, and experiences with others.

7           The legislature further finds that this traditional housing  
8 model, which is grounded in Hawaiian culture and values,  
9 presents an opportunity to improve the lives of people  
10 experiencing homelessness. While significant strides have been  
11 made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain  
12 insufficient. Hawaii continues to have the highest number of  
13 homeless individuals per capita of any state in the nation.  
14 According to point-in-time counts, the city and county of  
15 Honolulu, which has the highest number of homeless individuals  
16 in the State, saw the number of unsheltered homeless individuals  
17 rise from 2012 to 2017 and the number of people in shelters



1 decline from 2013 to 2019, despite increased investment in  
2 shelters and enforcement.

3 The legislature also finds that the kauhale model has the  
4 potential to serve homeless individuals in a way that existing  
5 programs are currently unable, with the goal of improving the  
6 health and well-being of homeless individuals.

7 The purpose of this Act is to address homelessness in the  
8 State by requiring the office of the lieutenant governor to  
9 convene a working group to consider the feasibility of  
10 establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program to provide  
11 shelter and other services to homeless individuals in the State.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The office of the lieutenant governor  
13 shall convene a working group to examine the feasibility of  
14 establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program, as  
15 specified in section 3 of this Act, to provide shelter and other  
16 services to homeless individuals in the State. The feasibility  
17 study shall also examine management of the pilot program sites  
18 and exempting construction of the pilot program sites from  
19 county ordinances.

20 (b) The working group shall include the following  
21 individuals, or their respective designees:



- 1 (1) The governor's coordinator on homelessness;
- 2 (2) The lieutenant governor;
- 3 (3) The attorney general;
- 4 (4) Executive director of the office of housing and
- 5 homelessness of the city and county of Honolulu;
- 6 (5) Executive director of the Hawaii public housing
- 7 authority; and
- 8 (6) Executive director of the Hawaii housing finance and
- 9 development corporation.

10 (c) The office of the lieutenant governor shall submit a  
11 report of the working group's findings and recommendations,  
12 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
14 of 2024.

15 (d) For purposes of this Act, "homeless" has the same  
16 meaning as in section 346-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 SECTION 3. (a) The working group established in section 2  
18 of this Act shall examine the feasibility of a kauhale pilot  
19 program based on the criteria specified in this section.

20 (b) A kauhale shall:



- 1 (1) Consist of tiny homes priced at no more than \$25,000
  - 2 per unit;
  - 3 (2) Have common areas that are designed to encourage
  - 4 community engagement among residents;
  - 5 (3) Have shared facilities, including restrooms and
  - 6 kitchens, to reduce cost and infrastructure needs;
  - 7 (4) Accept residents coping with substance abuse who are
  - 8 receiving treatment for substance abuse; and
  - 9 (5) House residents that are chronically homeless, as
  - 10 defined by the United States Department of Housing and
  - 11 Urban Development.
- 12 (c) The Hawaii housing finance and development corporation
- 13 and other appropriate agencies, including an agency with
- 14 specific expertise in construction development and an agency
- 15 with specific expertise in administering homeless services and
- 16 housing services, shall develop and implement the kauhale pilot
- 17 program. The lieutenant governor, through the designated
- 18 agencies, shall determine the number and locations of a kauhale,
- 19 which may be situated on public or private lands; provided that
- 20 the agencies shall identify at least six potential sites on Oahu
- 21 and at least one potential site on each of the islands of



1 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. The agencies may coordinate with  
2 public or private entities, as appropriate, to develop and  
3 implement the kauhale pilot program; provided that if any public  
4 land under the jurisdiction of a state or county agency is  
5 determined to be suitable for use as a kauhale, the agencies  
6 shall:

- 7 (1) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
8 controls the land to transfer the land designated for  
9 use as a kauhale to an agency whose mission is more  
10 suited to the management of a kauhale; and  
11 (2) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
12 controls the land and its construction agency to  
13 ensure that infrastructure needs for a kauhale are met  
14 and to minimize adverse impacts to the environment,  
15 including to nearshore resources such as corals, reef  
16 fish, and seabirds.

17 (d) The kauhale pilot program may provide the following  
18 facilities and services at each kauhale:

- 19 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:  
20 (A) May be private or communal;

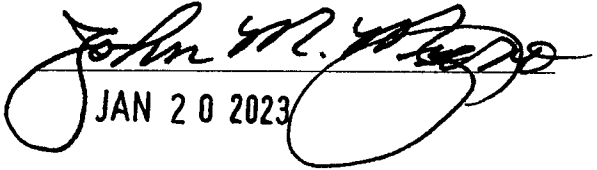


- 1 (B) Have access to toilets, showers, and other  
2 hygiene facilities; and
- 3 (C) Have access to an area for food storage and meal  
4 preparation;
- 5 (2) Medical, dental, and social support services; and  
6 (3) Transportation to appointments related to medical  
7 care, dental care, or supportive services that are not  
8 available at a kauhale.
- 9 (e) Contracts entered into to develop and implement the  
10 kauhale pilot program shall be exempt from the requirements of  
11 chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as well as all  
12 county ordinances, rules, regulations, laws, or provisions in  
13 any form that apply to any county permitting, licensing, zoning,  
14 variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements  
15 that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of carrying out the  
16 kauhale pilot program.
- 17 (f) The agencies that will implement the kauhale pilot  
18 program shall establish the following:
- 19 (1) The criteria that the agencies will use to evaluate  
20 potential kauhale sites;



- 1 (2) A monthly timetable of milestones that the agencies
- 2 expect to meet in establishing one or more kauhale
- 3 over the course of the pilot program;
- 4 (3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and
- 5 time-based performance measures that the agencies
- 6 expect to meet at the end of each fiscal year;
- 7 (4) The evaluation criteria and process that the agencies
- 8 intend to use each year when reviewing the success and
- 9 sustainability of a kauhale; and
- 10 (5) The monitoring and oversight controls that the
- 11 agencies will have over a kauhale to identify,
- 12 address, and prevent possible fraud, waste, and abuse,
- 13 and ensure compliance with county, state, and federal
- 14 laws.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

16  
INTRODUCED BY:   
JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 780

**Report Title:**

Kauhale Pilot Program; Homelessness; Lieutenant Governor;  
Working Group; Study

**Description:**

Requires the office of the lieutenant governor to convene a working group to examine the feasibility of establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program based on specified criteria to provide shelter and other services to homeless individuals in the State and to submit a report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2024.

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

