
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS ON DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES LANDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 land and natural resources manages public lands throughout the
3 State, including Diamond Head State Monument, which hosts over
4 one million visitors a year, and Hamakua and Kawainui marsh
5 wildlife sanctuaries, where some of the first Hawaiians are
6 thought to have lived on Oahu. Public lands on the neighbor
7 islands include the Kahulu boat ramp and unencumbered lands
8 along the Honoapiilani highway on Maui; Wailoa harbor, Kailua
9 pier, and parts of downtown Hilo on Hawaii island; and
10 unencumbered lands in Kapaa and Wailua on Kauai. Homeless
11 encampments can be found at all of these places and on other
12 less prominent lands, and the department is responsible for
13 their clean-up, including the removal of waste and other debris
14 that is often associated with the encampments' presence. These
15 clean-ups are crucial to restore department lands, help lessen



1 potential hazards to human health, and reduce potential damage
2 to public trust resources.

3 The legislature further finds that in fiscal year 2024-
4 2025, cleaning up after homeless encampments on lands managed by
5 the department of land and natural resources is expected to cost
6 the State approximately \$3,000,000. For fiscal year 2023-2024,
7 the department, with help from the department of transportation,
8 cleaned up homeless encampments comprised of approximately two
9 hundred twenty-three people in twenty-four locations on
10 department of land and natural resources lands. At least one
11 hundred twenty-nine days were spent cleaning department
12 properties for this purpose. Many of these efforts have
13 occurred as multi-day clean-ups because of the amount of waste
14 and debris or the size of the encampment. For example, at
15 Diamond Head, it takes approximately four days to clean the
16 entire property after the removal of homeless encampments; and
17 for a single clean-up effort in 2024 near Kalihi stream on
18 Oahu, approximately one month of labor cost the department
19 approximately \$1,000,000, in part because the number of
20 individuals needed to perform the work was nearly double the
21 number usually needed for a standard large clean-up and also due



1 to costs for renting three forty-foot trash bins per day and
2 dump-site fees. In the past, funding for these clean-ups on
3 department lands statewide was appropriated to the department of
4 human services and then transferred to the department of
5 transportation, which handled procurement and management of the
6 work. However, the department of human services did not include
7 funding for statewide homeless encampment cleanups that cover
8 lands managed by the department of land and natural resources in
9 its budget request for fiscal year 2023-2024. The department of
10 human services is not expected to include this funding in its
11 budget requests moving forward.

12 To avoid re-directing crucial operating funds to cover the
13 clean-up costs associated with homeless encampments on its
14 lands, the purpose of this Act is to provide dedicated funding
15 to the department of land and natural resources for this
16 purpose.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources.

3 SECTION 3. Beginning with fiscal biennium 2027-2029 and
4 each biennium thereafter, the department of land and natural
5 resources shall include in its annual budget request line-item
6 funding to cover the clean-up costs associated with homeless
7 encampments on its lands.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DLNR; State Lands; Homeless Encampments; Clean-ups;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the removal of homeless encampments on state lands under the Department's control. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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