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 the return-to-home
2	pilot program established by Act 94, Session Laws of Hawaii
3	2023, has been a success, sending over one hundred homeless
4	individuals back to their home states in the State's partnership
5	with the Institute for Human Services.
6	The legislature further finds that additional manpower
7	would assist in furthering the program.
8	Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to repeal the pilot
9	program, establish the program on a permanent basis, and
10	appropriate funds.
11	SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Part XVIII, Hawaii Revised
12	Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
13	designated and to read as follows:
14	"§346- Return-to-Home Program. (a) The statewide
15	office on homelessness and housing solutions shall coordinate a
16	voluntary homeless assistance program, to be known as the

17 return-to-home program, to provide eligible homeless individuals



1	with assi	stance in being reunited with family and relatives in
2	the indiv	idual's home state. The office shall establish a
3	public-pr	ivate partnership by contracting with eligible
4	nonprofit	organizations, for-profit organizations, or
5	foundatio	ns to administer the program without regard to chapters
6	103D and	103F. The governor's coordinator on homelessness may
7	<u>assist wi</u>	th the implementation of this program.
8	(b)	An individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
9	participa	te in the return-to-home program if:
10	(1)	The individual's participation is completely
11		voluntary;
12	(2)	The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
13		court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
14		the court to participate in the program; and
15	(3)	The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
16		resources necessary to secure transportation to return
17		to the individual's home state.
18	(C)	An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
19	program o	nly once and shall sign an agreement to this effect
20	before pa	rticipating in the program. The agreement shall be



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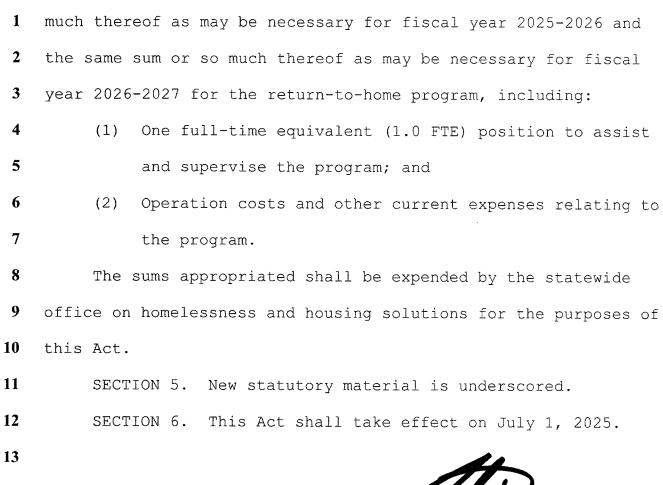
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1	kept on file with the statewide office on homelessness and
2	housing solutions.
3	(d) The return-to-home program shall actively seek the
4	participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
5	companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
6	industry to coordinate and implement the program.
7	(e) The return-to-home 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 statewide office on homelessness and housing
13	solutions shall submit a report of its findings and
14	recommendations relating to the return-to-home program,
15	including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
16	than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
17	session."
18	SECTION 3. Act 94, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, is
19	repealed.
20	SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 1 5 2025



Report Title:

OHHS; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Program; Report; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to establish a permanent Return-to-Home program to return homeless individuals in the State to families and relatives in their home states. Requires the Office to report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

