A BILL FOR AN ACT

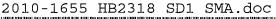
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Housing first, also known as rapid re-housing,
- 2 is a recent innovation in human-service programs meant to assist
- 3 homeless individuals. Housing first is an alternative to a
- 4 system of emergency shelters and transitional housing
- 5 progressions. Rather than moving homeless individuals through
- 6 different levels of housing on their way to independent living,
- 7 housing first moves homeless individuals immediately to their
- 8 own apartments. By creating a stable housing environment, other
- 9 issues that affect the household can be addressed, including
- 10 employment, job training, and health care.
- 11 Homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless
- 12 with disabilities such as addictions and mental illnesses, are
- 13 extremely fragile. Chronically homeless individuals are the
- 14 least likely of the homeless population to reach independent
- 15 living.
- 16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a housing first
- 17 special fund to provide housing first programs and services and
- 18 to authorize the Hawaii public housing authority to implement 2010-1655 HB2318 SD1 SMA.doc



- 1 housing first programs and services, as the authority deems
- 2 appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit and
- 3 succeed from housing first programs and services, and subject to
- 4 the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund
- 5 moneys.
- 6 SECTION 2. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
- 8 and to read as follows:
- 9 "§356D- Housing first special fund. (a) There is
- 10 established in the state treasury the housing first special
- 11 fund, into which shall be deposited appropriations by the
- 12 legislature to the special fund and gifts, donations, and grants
- 13 from public agencies and private persons.
- 14 Each county may provide matching funds, which shall be
- 15 deposited into the housing first special fund.
- 16 (b) Moneys in the housing first special fund shall be
- 17 administered by the Hawaii public housing authority and shall be
- 18 used to provide housing first programs and services."
- 19 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii public housing authority, in
- 20 collaboration with the department of human services and
- 21 consultation with the United States Department of Housing and
- 22 Urban Development, as necessary, may implement housing first





- 1 programs and services, as the authority deems appropriate for
- 2 clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from the
- 3 implementation of housing first programs and services, and
- 4 subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first
- 5 special fund moneys.
- 6 (b) The principles of housing first include:
- 7 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
- 8 directly from streets and shelters, without a
- 9 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;
- 10 provided that continued tenancy through a housing
- first program may be dependent on participation in
- 12 treatment services;
- 13 (2) Providing robust support services for program
- participants, predicated on assertive engagement
- instead of coercion;
- 16 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
- program participants in housing first programs;
- 18 (4) Embracing a harm-reduction approach to addictions,
- 19 rather than mandating abstinence, while supporting
- 20 program-participant commitments to recovery; and
- 21 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
- 22 protections as provided by law.

1 The Hawaii public housing authority, in collaboration with 2 the department of human services, may contract with housing 3 first consultants to effectuate the purpose of this Act. 4 Housing first programs shall incorporate the 5 following: 6 (1) Identification of target populations, specifically 7 chronically homeless individuals; 8 (2) Developing assessments for the chronically homeless 9 population; 10 Developing service components, including: (3) 11 (A) Financial assistance; 12 (B) In-home case management services; 13 Affordable-housing requirements; (C) 14 Landlord cultivation; (D) 15 (E) Housing-placement requirements; and Support services to move program participants **16** (F) **17** toward self-sufficiency. SECTION 4. As used in this Act, "chronically homeless 18 19 individual" means a homeless individual who has an addiction, mental illness, or both an addiction and mental illness. **20** 21 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed 22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and

2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.

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H.B. NO. 2318 H.D. 2 S.D. 1

Report Title:

HPHA; Housing First Special Fund; Housing First Principles

Description:

Establishes the housing first special fund. Authorizes the Hawaii public housing authority to implement housing first programs and services, as the authority deems appropriate for clientele who would most likely benefit and succeed from housing first programs, and subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund moneys. Takes effect 7/1/2020 and sunsets 7/30/2016. (SD1)

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