
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature has funded and created
2 programs to service chronic homeless individuals. However,
3 government cannot force an individual who is homeless to stay in
4 a shelter or receive such services. As a result, there are
5 hundreds of homeless individuals who decline help from
6 government and choose instead to sleep unsheltered on the
7 streets.

8 The purpose of this Act is to provide an incentive to bring
9 chronically homeless individuals to shelters and off the
10 streets.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§346- Homeless incentive program. (a) The department
15 of human services, in conjunction with the governor's
16 coordinator on homelessness, shall establish a homeless
17 incentive program to encourage chronically homeless individuals



1 to get off the streets by using the services of shelters in the
2 State.

3 (b) A chronically homeless individual shall be paid \$12
4 per twenty-four-hour period for each overnight stay by the
5 individual in a shelter; provided that:

6 (1) The shelter has enough space in compliance with health
7 and safety standards to accommodate the individual;
8 and

9 (2) The individual is in compliance with the requirements
10 and rules of the shelter.

11 (c) The \$12 payment to a qualified individual under
12 subsection (b) shall not be contingent on any requirement other
13 than as specified in this section.

14 (d) The department of human services shall adopt rules to
15 carry out the purposes of this section.

16 (e) As used in this section, "chronically homeless
17 individual" means an adult or minor who has been homeless and
18 living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a
19 safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least
20 one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last
21 three years."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2018-2019 for implementation of the homeless incentive program
6 established in this Act.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2017



H.B. NO. 1494

Report Title:

Homeless Incentive Program; Chronically Homeless; Shelters;
Department of Human Services

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), in conjunction with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, to establish a Homeless Incentive Program to encourage chronically homeless individuals to get off the streets by using the services of shelters. Requires DHS to adopt rules. Appropriates funds.

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