

JAN 25 2017

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 many chronically
2 homeless individuals have been helped by "housing first"
3 programs. Unfortunately, due to economic constraints, the
4 supply of subsidized housing is, and will continue to be,
5 woefully insufficient for the foreseeable future. Consequently,
6 illegal homeless camps, which are a public health menace, are
7 ubiquitous. The State must therefore adopt emergency measures
8 that can be implemented quickly within current budgetary
9 constraints. The legislature further finds that the goals of
10 "housing first" can be accomplished in any type of clean, safe,
11 and comfortable dwelling with supportive services.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
13 department of human services to establish residential
14 campgrounds with full supportive services for the homeless,
15 utilizing undeveloped government land located in industrial
16 zones.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§346- Residential campgrounds. (a) The department
5 shall establish and implement residential campgrounds for the
6 homeless on undeveloped government lands located in industrial
7 zones.

8 (b) The department may enter into agreements with agencies
9 in charge of state lands, agencies in charge of county lands
10 pursuant to section 346-375, and the United States Department of
11 Housing and Urban Development regarding surplus federal lands
12 pursuant to title 42 United States Code section 11412, as
13 necessary, to use those lands as residential campgrounds for the
14 homeless.

15 (c) The department, in consultation with the department of
16 accounting and general services, as necessary, shall arrange for
17 the construction of residential campground facilities. Wherever
18 possible, the facilities shall be temporary structures capable
19 of being erected quickly, on a large scale, at a minimal cost.

20 (d) Residential campgrounds for the homeless established
21 pursuant to this section shall provide at a minimum:



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- 1 (1) Designated campsites large enough for a tent or other
2 temporary structure;
- 3 (2) A secure place to lock valuables;
- 4 (3) Parking spaces within a reasonable distance from the
5 designated campsites;
- 6 (4) Reasonable access to public transportation, which may
7 be accomplished by working with the relevant public
8 transportation agencies to re-route buses as needed;
- 9 (5) A place to build a fire for cooking;
- 10 (6) Communal men's and women's bathrooms and showers;
- 11 (7) Systems to collect and dispose of trash and other
12 waste;
- 13 (8) A mailing address and a system that permits residents
14 to securely receive mail;
- 15 (9) Places within each campground where the department,
16 and other public and private organizations, can
17 provide supportive services for the homeless; and
- 18 (10) An earnership program allowing residents to earn
19 benefits by volunteering to maintain and service the
20 campground. Residents participating in an earnership
21 program shall be considered emergency or transitional



1 shelter volunteers as defined in section 346-370 and
2 shall not be considered employees.

3 (e) The department shall develop and implement residential
4 campgrounds in accordance with the relevant principles of a
5 housing first program under section 346-378(b), and shall
6 develop and offer support services to campground residents that
7 are substantially equivalent to those offered to housing first
8 program participants.

9 (f) The director shall adopt rules for residential
10 campgrounds, as necessary. Rules adopted to implement this
11 section shall be exempt from the public notice and public
12 hearing requirements of chapter 91. The rules shall:

13 (1) Allow anyone admission to a residential campground
14 without qualification, if there is space available,
15 unless the person seeking admission is a danger to
16 others;

17 (2) Provide for referral of anyone who violates any
18 applicable law or rule to law enforcement, if
19 necessary, but not allow eviction from the residential
20 campground as a punishment for, or consequence of, the



1 violation unless the person in violation of the law or
2 rule presents a danger to others; and

3 (3) Provide residents the freedom to live in tents, other
4 temporary structures, or automobiles.

5 (g) The department shall submit an annual report to the
6 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 each regular session, beginning with the regular session of
8 2018. The annual report shall include:

9 (1) The total number of residential campgrounds
10 established and the total number of residents served;

11 (2) The annual cost to operate the residential
12 campgrounds;

13 (3) The type of support services offered at residential
14 campgrounds; and

15 (4) Information regarding the duration of residency and
16 the services utilized by residents."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



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1 2018-2019 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the
2 hiring of necessary staff.

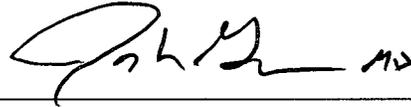
3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John M. ...", written over a horizontal line.

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Report Title:

Residential Campgrounds; Homeless

Description:

Directs DHS to develop and implement residential campgrounds for the homeless.

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