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# 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 chronically 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 a homeless individual with a disability who:

18 (1) Lives either in a place not meant for human  
19 habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter,  
20 or in an institutional care facility if the individual  
21 has been living in the facility for fewer than ninety



1 days and had been living in a place not meant for  
2 human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency  
3 shelter immediately before entering the institutional  
4 care facility; and

5 (2) Shall have been living as described in paragraph (1)  
6 continuously for at least twelve months, or on at  
7 least four separate occasions in the last three years,  
8 where the combined occasions total a length of time of  
9 at least twelve months. Each period separating the  
10 occasions shall include at least seven nights of  
11 living in a situation other than a place not meant for  
12 human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a  
13 safe haven."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
18 2018-2019 for implementation of the homeless incentive program  
19 established in this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2075.



**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. (HB1494 HD1)

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