

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the state rental 2 assistance program administered by the Hawaii housing finance 3 and development corporation provides qualified rental project 4 owners with monthly rental assistance subsidies to assist 5 eligible tenants to make their rental payments. The shallow, 6 project-based rental assistance program subsidies has been 7 effective in helping moderate income households at or below 8 eighty per cent of the area median income to afford their rent 9 payments, while providing sufficient rental income to ensure 10 that the rental project remains economically feasible. 11 Over this program's lifespan, rental assistance subsidies 12 were provided for 1,437 units in seventeen affordable rental 13 projects statewide. As older project contracts have expired, 14 and due to the lack of resources to enter into new project 15 contracts, only ten projects remain in the program, with a total 16 of 1,204 assisted units.

1	Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the	
2	number of	low-income households with access to permanent
3	affordabl	e rental housing by:
4	(1)	Increasing the minimum percentage of affordable units
5		a rental housing project is required to maintain for
6		eligible tenants; and
7	(2)	Appropriating funds to be deposited into the rental
8		assistance revolving fund to support new rental
9		assistance program contracts.
10	SECTION 2. Section 201H-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is	
11	amended b	y amending the definition of "eligible project" to read
12	as follows:	
13	""El	igible project" means a rental housing project that:
14	(1)	Is financed by the corporation pursuant to subpart B
15		or D, or that the corporation determines will require
16		rental assistance to make it financially feasible;
17	(2)	Is subject to a regulatory agreement with the
18		corporation;
19	(3)	Maintains at least [twenty] thirty per cent of its
20		units for eligible tenants; and

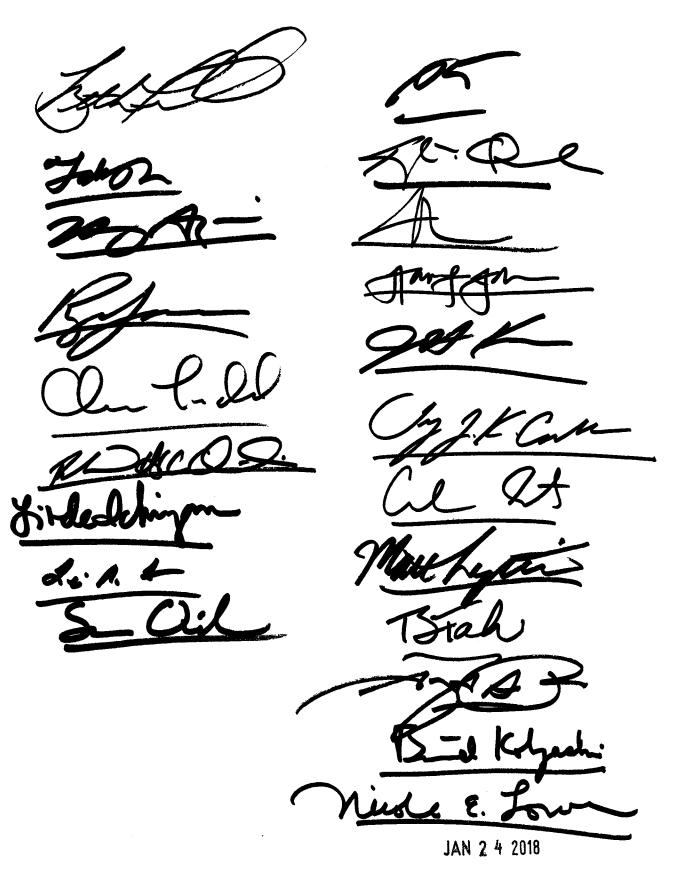
- (4) Meets other qualifications as established by rules
  adopted by the corporation.
- 3 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, "eligible
- 4 project" may also include a rental housing project that is
- 5 financed by the corporation pursuant to subpart A."
- 6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
- 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
- 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be
- 9 deposited into the rental assistance revolving fund established
- 10 by section 201H-123, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- 11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
- 12 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
- 13 this Act.
- 14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- 16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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### Report Title:

Affordable Rental Housing; Rental Assistance Program; Appropriation

#### Description:

Expands the rental assistance program by increasing the minimum percentage of affordable units a rental housing project is required to maintain for eligible tenants. Appropriates funds to support new rental assistance program contracts.

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