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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 finds that "kauhale"  
2 traditionally means a Hawaiian village and houses members of an  
3 ohana, whether related by blood or not, who treat each other as  
4 extended family. The concept of kauhale maximizes the sense of  
5 community by recognizing and celebrating an individual's skills,  
6 knowledge, and experiences with others.

7           The legislature further finds that this traditional housing  
8 model, which is grounded in Hawaiian culture and values,  
9 presents an opportunity to improve the lives of people  
10 experiencing homelessness. While significant strides have been  
11 made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain  
12 insufficient. Hawaii continues to have the highest number of  
13 homeless individuals per capita of any state in the nation. The  
14 city and county of Honolulu, which has the highest number of  
15 homeless individuals in the State, has seen the number of  
16 unsheltered homeless individuals rise over the past five years  
17 and the number of people in shelters decline during the same



1 period, despite increased investment in shelters and  
2 enforcement.

3 The legislature also finds that the kauhale model has the  
4 potential to serve homeless individuals in a way that existing  
5 programs are currently unable, with the goal of improving the  
6 health and well-being of homeless individuals.

7 The purpose of this Act is to address homelessness in the  
8 State by requiring the office of the lieutenant governor to  
9 convene a working group to consider the feasibility of  
10 establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program to provide  
11 shelter and other services to homeless individuals in the State.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The office of the lieutenant governor  
13 shall convene a working group to examine the feasibility of  
14 establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program, as  
15 specified in section 3 of this Act, to provide shelter and other  
16 services to homeless individuals in the State. The feasibility  
17 study shall also examine management of the pilot program sites  
18 and exempting construction of the pilot program sites from  
19 county ordinances.

20 (b) The working group shall comprise the following  
21 individuals, or their respective designees:



- 1 (1) The governor's coordinator on homelessness;
- 2 (2) The lieutenant governor;
- 3 (3) The attorney general;
- 4 (4) Executive director of the office of housing of the
- 5 city and county of Honolulu;
- 6 (5) Executive director of the Hawaii public housing
- 7 authority; and
- 8 (6) Executive director of the Hawaii housing finance and
- 9 development corporation.

10 (c) The office of the lieutenant governor shall submit a  
11 report of the working group's findings and recommendations,  
12 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
14 of 2021.

15 (d) For purposes of this Act, "homeless" has the same  
16 meaning as in section 346-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 SECTION 3. (a) The working group established in section 2  
18 of this Act shall examine the feasibility of a kauhale pilot  
19 program based on the criteria specified in this section.

20 (b) A kauhale shall:



- 1           (1)   Consist of tiny homes priced at no more than \$25,000
- 2                   per unit;
- 3           (2)   Have common areas that are designed to encourage
- 4                   community engagement with residents;
- 5           (3)   Have shared facilities, including restrooms and
- 6                   kitchens, to reduce cost and infrastructure needs;
- 7           (4)   Accept residents coping with substance abuse who are
- 8                   receiving treatment for substance abuse; and
- 9           (5)   House residents that are chronically homeless, as
- 10                   defined by the United States Department of Housing and
- 11                   Urban Development.
- 12           (c)   The lieutenant governor shall designate the Hawaii
- 13           housing finance and development corporation and other
- 14           appropriate agencies, including an agency with specific
- 15           expertise in construction development and an agency with
- 16           specific expertise in administering homeless services and
- 17           housing services, to develop and implement the kauhale pilot
- 18           program. The lieutenant governor, through these designated
- 19           agencies, shall determine the number and locations of a kauhale,
- 20           which shall be situated on public or private lands; provided
- 21           that the designated agencies shall identify at least six sites



1 on Oahu, and at least one site on each of the islands of Hawaii,  
2 Kauai, and Maui. The designated agencies may coordinate with  
3 public or private entities, as appropriate, to develop and  
4 implement the kauhale pilot program; provided that if any public  
5 land under the jurisdiction of a state or county agency is  
6 determined to be suitable for use as a kauhale, the designated  
7 agencies shall:

- 8 (1) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
9 controls the land to transfer the land designated for  
10 use as a kauhale to an agency whose mission is more  
11 suited to the management of a kauhale; and
- 12 (2) Work with the appropriate state or county agency that  
13 controls the land and its construction agency to  
14 ensure that infrastructure needs for a kauhale are met  
15 and to minimize adverse impacts to the environment,  
16 including to nearshore resources such as corals, reef  
17 fish, and seabirds.

18 (d) The kauhale pilot program may provide the following  
19 facilities and services at each kauhale:

- 20 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:  
21 (A) May be private or communal;



- 1 (B) Have access to toilets, showers, and other  
2 hygiene facilities; and
- 3 (C) Have access to an area for food storage and meal  
4 preparation;
- 5 (2) Medical and social support services; and
- 6 (3) Transportation to appointments related to medical care  
7 or supportive services that are not available at a  
8 kauhale.
- 9 (e) Contracts entered into by the agencies designated by  
10 the lieutenant governor pursuant to the kauhale pilot program  
11 shall be exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F,  
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, as well as all county ordinance, rule,  
13 regulation, law, or provision in any form that applies to any  
14 county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes,  
15 procedures, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay,  
16 or impede the purpose of carrying out the kauhale pilot program.
- 17 (f) The agencies designated by the lieutenant governor  
18 pursuant to the kauhale pilot program shall establish the  
19 following:
- 20 (1) The criteria that the agencies will use to evaluate  
21 potential kauhale locations;



- 1           (2) A monthly timetable of milestones that the agencies  
2           expect to meet in establishing one or more kauhale  
3           over the course of the pilot program;
- 4           (3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and  
5           time-based performance measures that the agencies  
6           expect to meet at the end of each fiscal year;
- 7           (4) The evaluation criteria and process that the agencies  
8           intend to use each year when reviewing the success and  
9           sustainability of a kauhale; and
- 10          (5) The monitoring and oversight controls that the  
11          agencies will have over a kauhale to identify,  
12          address, and prevent possible fraud, waste, and abuse,  
13          and ensure compliance with county, state, and federal  
14          laws.

15           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
16   2059.



**Report Title:**

Kauhale Pilot Program; Homelessness; Lieutenant Governor;  
Working Group; Study

**Description:**

Requires the office of the lieutenant governor to convene a working group to examine the feasibility of establishing and implementing a kauhale pilot program based on specified criteria to provide shelter and other services to homeless individuals in the State and to submit a report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2021. Takes effect on December 31, 2059. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

