
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the
2 highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronically
4 unsheltered homeless per capita of any state. An estimated
5 6,530 people are living on the streets and in shelters in
6 Hawaii. Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted
7 approach using interventions that are targeted to the particular
8 characteristics of the population being served. The state rent
9 supplement for homeless families and individuals is critically
10 necessary to address homelessness.

11 The state rent supplement program provides a "shallow", but
12 sustained, subsidy to struggling households. Unlike the "deep"
13 subsidy Housing Choice Voucher program, better known as the
14 Section 8 program, which helps families at the lowest ends of
15 the income scale by bridging a wide affordability gap between
16 income and housing costs, the state rent supplement program
17 helps households who are closer to financial self-sufficiency

1 but still have a narrow affordability gap to fill. The state
2 rent supplement program provides an ongoing subsidy, enabling
3 homeless households or those at imminent risk of homelessness to
4 close the affordability gap, maintain housing, and achieve self-
5 sufficiency.

6 Because individual subsidies under state rent supplement
7 programs are relatively low, the programs can resolve
8 homelessness for a large number of individuals and families
9 relative to the total cost of the subsidy program.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support
11 the state rent supplement program.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2020-2021 for the state rent supplement program established
17 pursuant to section 356D-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
19 public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

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H.B. NO. 1458

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2019



H.B. NO. 1458

Report Title:

Housing; State Rent Supplement Program; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the state rent supplement program.

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