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# 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 and the highest rate of  
3 chronically unsheltered homeless per capita of any state in the  
4 nation. In Hawaii, approximately 6,530 people live on the  
5 streets and in shelters. Addressing homelessness requires a  
6 multi-faceted approach that uses interventions targeted to the  
7 particular characteristics of the populations being served. The  
8 state rent supplement program for homeless families and  
9 individuals is critically necessary to address homelessness.

10           The state rent supplement program provides an ongoing  
11 subsidy to enable homeless households or those at imminent risk  
12 of homelessness to maintain housing and achieve self-  
13 sufficiency. The state rent supplement program provides a  
14 "shallow" but sustained subsidy, filling a narrow affordability  
15 gap. This program is unlike the "deep" subsidy Housing Choice  
16 Voucher program, better known as the Section 8 program, which  
17 helps families at the lowest ends of the income scale bridge a



1 wide affordability gap between income and housing costs.  
2 Because individual state rent subsidies are relatively low, the  
3 program can resolve homelessness for a large number of  
4 individuals and families relative to the total cost of the  
5 subsidy program.

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

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2020-2021 for the state rent supplement program established  
13 pursuant to part VIII of Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Housing; State Rent Supplement Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for the state rent supplement program.  
(HB1458 HD1)

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

