

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness and
2 affordable housing are two of the most pressing problems facing
3 Hawaii, especially for families with minor children. According
4 to the 2018 Oahu Homeless Point-In-Time Count, there were four
5 hundred seven sheltered and unsheltered homeless families on the
6 island of Oahu, including eight hundred ninety-nine homeless
7 minor children on Oahu as of January 22, 2018.

8 The legislature further finds that rental subsidies are
9 critical to address one of the root causes of homelessness: the
10 lack of affordable rentals. By increasing the State's
11 investment in long-term, shallow rent subsidies, Hawaii can help
12 vulnerable families out of homelessness and ensure that these
13 families have greater housing stability. The Hawaii public
14 housing authority is well-suited to administer a housing
15 homeless children rental assistance pilot program to provide
16 ongoing, shallow rental subsidies, which would move homeless
17 families with children into stable housing. A requirement that



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1 recipients of the rental assistance subsidies pursue evidence-
2 based financial management and budget counseling services for
3 the whole family, including children, will help these families
4 achieve critical economic and housing stability now and in the
5 future.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
7 Hawaii public housing authority for the state rent supplement
8 program to provide assistance through the establishment of a
9 housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program that
10 requires recipients of subsidies from the pilot program to
11 obtain financial management and budget counseling services.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 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 to:

- 17 (1) Assist homeless families with minor children
18 experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due
19 to domestic violence to obtain and maintain permanent
20 housing by establishing a housing homeless children
21 rental assistance pilot program; and



1 (2) Pay for administrative and personnel costs to operate
2 the program.

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

5 SECTION 3. The Hawaii public housing authority shall
6 develop and establish a housing homeless children rental
7 assistance pilot program within the state rent supplement
8 program to assist homeless families with minor children
9 experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to
10 domestic violence with obtaining and maintaining permanent
11 housing; provided that rental assistance shall be time-limited;
12 provided further that each member of families receiving rental
13 assistance, other than persons years of age or younger,
14 shall be required to obtain financial management and budget
15 counseling services from a United States Department of Housing
16 and Urban Development approved housing counseling agency.

17 The Hawaii public housing authority shall adopt interim
18 rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
19 the purposes of this section.

20 SECTION 4. The Hawaii public housing authority may procure
21 financial management and budget counseling services without



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1 regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from
 2 a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
 3 approved housing counseling agency to assist families receiving
 4 rental assistance from the housing homeless children rental
 5 assistance pilot program in meeting the financial counseling
 6 requirement under section 3 of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. The Hawaii public housing authority shall
 8 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 9 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
 10 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
 11 2022.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.
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INTRODUCED BY:

Karl Rhoads

Breene Hunt

Randy H. Berk

[Signature]

[Signature]

Simon Mercedes



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Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Housing Homeless Children Rental Assistance Pilot Program; Homelessness; Domestic Violence; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Hawaii public housing authority to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program to assist families with minor children experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. Requires each family member to obtain financial management and counseling services. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Requires report to the legislature.

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