



GOV. MSG. NO. 1355

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

7/7/2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on 7/7/2022, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2370 SD2 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.
ACT 252

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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 homelessness in
2 Hawaii is a long-term problem. The legislature acknowledges
3 that homelessness requires greater collaboration and
4 coordination among diverse government entities, businesses,
5 nonprofit organizations, and faith-based organizations. In
6 pursuit of this goal, the legislature enacted Act 105, Session
7 Laws of Hawaii 2012 (Act 105). Act 105, in part, formally
8 established the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness,
9 which had been temporarily created through Executive Order No.
10 11-21. Act 105 allowed the council to continue identifying
11 critical strategic goals and initiatives that would mitigate
12 homelessness while ensuring that persons experiencing
13 homelessness could obtain permanent housing and become
14 reintegrated into the community. As one of its statutory
15 duties, on September 10, 2012, the council adopted a unified
16 statewide ten-year plan. At that time, the point-in-time count,
17 or the annual one-day unduplicated count of sheltered and
18 unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness,



1 totaled 7,921 statewide. Eight years later, in 2020, the point-
2 in-time count totaled 6,458.

3 While the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness has a
4 ten-year plan, the legislature further finds that the State
5 lacks a long-term commitment to prevent, reduce, and end
6 homelessness. The legislature also finds that various state
7 agencies and programs that address homelessness have been built
8 up on a piecemeal basis and have approached homelessness in a
9 similar manner. There is no central agency tasked with reducing
10 and preventing homelessness through the coordination of effort
11 between state and local government agencies and private
12 entities.

13 The legislature recognizes that year-to-year funding,
14 rather than consistent funding in the base budget, creates
15 uncertainty for the staff of a program. For example, in 2019,
16 the legislature enacted Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
17 which appointed the governor's coordinator on homelessness to
18 administer and enforce the duties and responsibilities of the
19 council. The coordinator is currently funded as a special
20 project under the department of human services, while the
21 coordinator's full-time staff of four are not permanent



1 employees. In addition, year-to-year funding among agencies and
2 providers for homeless services threatens already potentially
3 sporadic and fragmented services, instead of providing
4 consistent support that will help permanently house persons
5 experiencing homelessness in the State.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Establish the office on homelessness and housing
8 solutions;
- 9 (2) Appropriate funds for the administration of the office
10 on homelessness and housing solutions; and
- 11 (3) Establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE)
12 permanent positions to carry out the objectives of the
13 office on homelessness and housing solutions.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new subpart to part XVIII to be
16 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

17 " . STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS

18 §346-A Definitions. As used in this subpart, unless the
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Coordinator" means the governor's coordinator on
21 homelessness as provided in section 346-381.5.



1 "Office" means the statewide office on homelessness and
2 housing solutions.

3 §346-B Statewide office on homelessness and housing
4 solutions; establishment. There is established within the
5 department of human services, for administrative purposes only,
6 the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions that
7 shall:

8 (1) Work with state, county, and community agencies to
9 develop solutions to prevent and end homelessness in
10 the State through transitional and permanent housing
11 and supportive or assisted services, or both; and

12 (2) Develop and test innovative solutions to prevent and
13 end homelessness in the State.

14 §346-C Administration. (a) The office shall be headed by
15 the governor's coordinator on homelessness, appointed pursuant
16 to section 346-381.5, for the proper administration and
17 enforcement of this subpart.

18 (b) The coordinator shall report directly to the governor
19 and appoint staff as may be necessary.

20 (c) The employees of the office shall be appointed without
21 regard to chapter 76.



1 **§346-D Duties and responsibilities.** The office shall:

2 (1) Identify and address gaps in the homeless service
3 system by:

4 (A) Developing a standard strategy for coordinated
5 entry, needs assessment, and allocation of
6 services and housing types to create pathways to
7 permanent assisted and independent housing;

8 (B) Working with state departments and agencies to
9 develop and maintain multi-year strategic and
10 tactical plans and road maps as a part of the
11 Hawaii interagency council on homelessness'
12 unified ten-year statewide plan;

13 (C) Coordinating matters relating to homelessness and
14 affordable housing between state and county
15 agencies and private entities; and

16 (D) Developing and testing innovative solutions to
17 prevent and end homelessness through
18 collaboration with appropriate agencies;

19 (2) Provide administrative support for the Hawaii
20 interagency council on homelessness in developing the



council's unified ten-year statewide plan to address homelessness in all counties of the State; and

- (3) Establish and maintain a statewide homelessness and housing data clearinghouse, which may include information on persons experiencing homelessness and available services, shelters, and housing.

§346-E Annual report. The coordinator shall submit an annual progress report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report shall include:

- (1) Performance metrics relating to reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the State;
- (2) Performance metrics relating to housing and services inventory gaps, including but not limited to the number of persons experiencing homelessness served and placed into permanent housing and the cost per person served; and
- (3) Performance metrics to evaluate the State's performance on homeless services, housing, care coordination, and other needed services to end homelessness in the State."



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 346, part XVIII, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, is amended by amending its title to read as follows:

3 " ~~[PART XVIII.] ~~HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON~~~~ STATEWIDE
4 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS"

5 SECTION 4. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by designating sections 346-381, 346-381.5, 346-382, and
7 346-383 under part XVIII as subpart A and inserting a title
8 before section 346-381 to read as follows:

9 "A. Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness"

10 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
13 administration of the statewide office on homelessness and
14 housing solutions; provided that:

- 15 (1) Each county may provide support for programs within
16 its county; and
17 (2) Five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) permanent
18 positions shall be established to carry out the
19 objectives of the statewide office on homelessness and
20 housing solutions established by section 3 of this
21 Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section
4 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
5 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
6 the new sections in this Act.

7 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
10 provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



S.B. NO. 2370
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2022

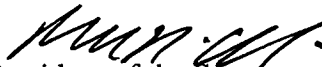
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Y. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "Y" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 3, 2022
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2022.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2370, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1


THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 3, 2022
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives