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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 rate of homelessness per capita of any state in the  
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate in the nation, per  
4 capita, of chronically unsheltered homeless. According to the  
5 Hawaii Homelessness Initiative Point in Time Count for 2020, an  
6 estimated 6,458 people live on the streets and in shelters in  
7 Hawaii. Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted  
8 approach that uses interventions targeted to the characteristics  
9 of the population being served. The state rent supplement  
10 program for homeless families and individuals is critically  
11 necessary to address homelessness.

12       The legislature further finds that the state rent  
13 supplement program provides a "shallow", but sustained subsidy  
14 to struggling households. Unlike the "deep" subsidy housing  
15 choice voucher program, better known as the section 8 program,  
16 which helps families at the lowest ends of the income scale by  
17 bridging a wide affordability gap between income and housing



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

8 Because individual subsidies under the state rent  
9 supplement program are relatively low, the subsidies can resolve  
10 homelessness for many individuals and families relative to the  
11 total cost of the subsidy program.

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

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
17 the state rent supplement program established pursuant to  
18 section 356D-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Public Housing Authority; State Rent Supplement Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority for  
the state rent supplement program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

