
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



1 unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness,
2 totaled 7,921 statewide. Eight years later, in 2020, the point-
3 in-time count totaled 6,458.

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

14 The legislature recognizes that year-to-year funding,
15 rather than consistent funding in the base budget, creates
16 uncertainty for the staff of a program. For example, in 2019,
17 the legislature enacted Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
18 which appointed the governor's coordinator on homelessness to
19 administer and enforce the duties and responsibilities of the
20 council. The coordinator is currently funded as a special
21 project under the department of human services, while the



1 coordinator's full-time staff of four are not permanent
2 employees. In addition, year-to-year funding among agencies and
3 providers for homeless services threatens already potentially
4 sporadic and fragmented services, instead of providing
5 consistent support that will help permanently house persons
6 experiencing homelessness in the State.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Establish the office on homelessness and housing
9 solutions; and
10 (2) Appropriate funds for the administration of the office
11 on homelessness and housing solutions, including full-
12 time equivalent positions.

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

16 " . OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS

17 **§346-A Definitions.** As used in this subpart, unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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



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

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

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

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

13 **§346-C Administration.** (a) The office on homelessness
14 and housing solutions shall be headed by the governor's
15 coordinator on homelessness, appointed pursuant to section
16 346-381.5, for the proper administration and enforcement of this
17 subpart.

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

20 (c) Pursuant to section 346-381.5, the coordinator shall
21 be appointed without 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



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

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

8 **§346-E Annual report.** The coordinator shall submit an
9 annual progress report to the legislature no later than twenty
10 days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report
11 shall include:

- 12 (1) Performance metrics relating to reducing the number of
13 persons experiencing homelessness in the State;
14 (2) Performance metrics relating to housing and services
15 inventory gaps, including but not limited to the
16 number of persons experiencing homelessness served and
17 placed into permanent housing and the cost per person
18 served;
19 (3) Performance metrics to evaluate the State's
20 performance on homeless services, housing, care



1 coordination, and other needed services to end
2 homelessness in the State; and

3 (4) An inventory of available vacant public lands provided
4 by each state agency that administers public lands
5 pursuant to section 346-F.

6 **§346-F Available vacant public lands inventory.** Each
7 state agency that administers public lands shall provide the
8 coordinator with an inventory identifying any available vacant
9 public lands under the jurisdiction of that agency."

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by designating sections 346-381.5 and 346-382 as subpart
12 A and inserting a title before section 346-381.5 to read as
13 follows:

14 **"A. General Provisions"**

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
18 the administration of the office on homelessness and housing
19 solutions, including full-time equivalent (FTE)
20 positions; provided that each county may provide support for
21 programs within its county.



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

3 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
4 2 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 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DHS; Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions; Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the office on homelessness and housing solutions within the department of human services to be headed by the governor's coordinator on homelessness. Appropriates funds for the administration of the office on homelessness and housing solutions, including positions. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

