

JAN 21 2022

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 Report 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 that are targeted to the
9 characteristics of the population being served. The state rent
10 supplement 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 state rent supplement
9 programs are relatively low, the programs 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.

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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2723

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.

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