
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many homeless
2 persons who have been hospitalized are in need of supportive
3 services and follow-up care. Persons lacking access to a clean
4 and safe place in which to recover may require extended
5 inpatient stays and repeated hospitalizations. Hawaii Health
6 Information Corporation estimates that homeless persons in the
7 State are hospitalized more than ten thousand times per year, at
8 an annual cost of approximately \$100,000,000. The legislature
9 recognizes that the costs of these hospitalizations are often
10 absorbed by treating medical facilities, privately insured
11 patients, and taxpayers.

12 The legislature further finds that some extended hospital
13 stays and repeated hospitalizations could be avoided by
14 providing recently discharged homeless persons with a
15 coordinated program of care, including medical care, housing
16 assistance, and supportive services.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
2 quality of life and standard of care for homeless persons in the
3 State by establishing a medical respite pilot program.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
5 of human services a three-year medical respite pilot program to
6 provide outpatient health care and supportive services to
7 homeless persons recently discharged from the hospital. The
8 pilot program shall be overseen by the governor's coordinator on
9 homelessness.

10 (b) The department shall administer the pilot program in
11 each county having a population of more than six hundred
12 thousand.

13 (c) The pilot program shall be based at a federally
14 qualified health center that shall coordinate with other
15 hospitals, emergency rooms, health plans, and social service
16 providers to develop and implement individualized care plans for
17 each referred person.

18 (d) Services provided or coordinated by the health center
19 shall include:

20 (1) Assistance in securing clean and safe housing for the
21 duration of the person's post-discharge recovery;



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- 1 (2) Access to regular and timely medical care, including:
- 2 (A) Preventative and primary care services;
- 3 (B) Medication refills;
- 4 (C) Treatment for allergic reactions;
- 5 (D) Treatment for asthma and respiratory conditions;
- 6 (E) Treatment for burns;
- 7 (F) Treatment for muscle strains;
- 8 (G) Treatment for colds, flu, and other common
- 9 illnesses;
- 10 (H) Testing for tuberculosis;
- 11 (I) Vaccinations;
- 12 (J) Minor procedures, including sutures for small
- 13 wounds; and
- 14 (K) Basic behavioral health services;
- 15 (3) Services to address basic non-medical needs;
- 16 (4) Referrals to community resources to address social
- 17 determinants of health; and
- 18 (5) Assistance in transitioning to permanent housing.
- 19 (e) The health center shall work with designated county
- 20 departments to engage in community outreach efforts to educate



1 homeless persons on the services offered by the medical respite
2 program.

3 (f) The health center shall also work with designated
4 county departments to coordinate and provide medical and other
5 care services for non-hospitalized homeless persons who are
6 being moved by police out of unauthorized spaces.

7 (g) The pilot program shall terminate after three years of
8 operation.

9 (h) The department shall submit a report of its findings
10 and recommendations, including a recommendation on if the pilot
11 program should be extended or made permanent and any proposed
12 enabling legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
13 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
17 medical respite pilot program established by section 2 of this
18 Act.

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



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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 21 2022



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Report Title:

DHS; Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; Medical Respite; Homeless Persons; Appropriation; Report

Description:

Establishes a 3-year medical respite pilot program within the Department of Human Services to provide out-patient health care and supportive services to homeless persons recently discharged from the hospital and non-hospitalized homeless persons who are being moved by police out of unauthorized spaces. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

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

