
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 is one
2 of the most pressing problems in Hawaii, which requires a
3 robust, comprehensive, long-term solution to address the State's
4 affordable housing and homelessness crisis. One important
5 component of the solution is ensuring that low-income kupuna are
6 not forced into homelessness through a combination of fixed
7 incomes and rapidly rising rents.

8 The legislature further finds that, over the last fifty
9 years, the number of cost-burdened renters, or those paying more
10 than thirty per cent of their income for rent, has significantly
11 increased. Today, almost half of all renters in the State pay
12 more than thirty per cent of their income for rent. High
13 housing costs have driven more and more Hawaii residents into
14 homelessness, and now the homelessness rate per capita in Hawaii
15 is among the highest in the nation.

16 The legislature additionally finds that by making smart
17 investments in homelessness and housing, using data-driven



1 practices, and improving coordination, Hawaii has gradually
2 begun to turn the tide in the homelessness crisis. In 2017,
3 Hawaii's homelessness rate went down for the first time in
4 years, a trend that continued in 2018. During the regular
5 session of 2018, the legislature made unprecedented levels of
6 investment in low-income housing and homelessness, appropriating
7 \$200,000,000 for the rental housing revolving fund, \$30,000,000
8 for ohana zones, and \$13,500,000 for proven-effective and
9 promising homelessness programs.

10 The legislature also finds that, to turn back fifty years
11 of growth in Hawaii's housing and homelessness crisis,
12 investments of this scale must be made consistently in the
13 coming years. Hawaii must prioritize programs that are the most
14 cost-effective and target the most vulnerable populations, such
15 as the State's kupuna. The 2017 Homeless Service Utilization
16 Report found that there are 1,386 homeless elders in the State.
17 Many more elders face homelessness as rents skyrocket. Due to
18 the fixed incomes of elders, a state rent supplement program
19 targeted toward kupuna that expands on the existing state rent
20 supplement program administered by the Hawaii Public Housing
21 Authority is needed.



1 The purpose of this Act is to temporarily expand the state
2 rent supplement program to specifically target qualified kupuna
3 who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at
4 imminent risk of becoming homeless and appropriate funds for
5 this purpose.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§356D- State rent supplement program for kupuna. (a)

10 There is established the state rent supplement program for
11 kupuna to be administered by the authority to provide state rent
12 supplement assistance and other services under this section.

13 (b) The authority shall:

14 (1) Provide state rent supplement assistance specifically
15 for qualified kupuna; provided that an individual who
16 qualifies for the state rent supplement program for
17 kupuna shall participate in the Continuum of Care
18 Coordinated Entry System for homeless services;

19 (2) Provide housing counseling and landlord assistance to
20 assist qualified kupuna; and



1 (3) Coordinate with mental health services to assist
2 qualified kupuna in obtaining or retaining permanent
3 housing.

4 (c) The authority may enter into memoranda of agreement
5 with the counties or specialized non-profit organizations as
6 necessary to implement this section.

7 (d) The authority shall submit an annual report on the
8 state rent supplement program for kupuna to the legislature of
9 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
11 each regular session.

12 (e) As used in this section, "qualified kupuna" means an
13 individual who is sixty-two years of age or older and is
14 homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and who
15 otherwise meets the requirements for a qualified tenant under
16 section 356D-153."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
20 the state rent supplement program for kupuna established under
21 section 356D- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, including full-



1 time equivalent (FTE) public housing specialist positions
2 within the Hawaii public housing authority; provided that any
3 funds appropriated under this section shall be in addition to
4 the base budget of the Hawaii public housing authority for the
5 state rent supplement program.

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

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
10 2050, and shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.



Report Title:

HPHA; State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna; Reports;
Appropriation

Description:

Temporarily expands the state rent supplement program to specifically target qualified individuals who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Requires HPHA to submit annual reports to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2025. Effective 12/31/2050. (HD1)

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