
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 many homeless
2 individuals thrive when they have ready access to familiar
3 support groups and loving family members. Many homeless
4 individuals from the continental United States are currently
5 stranded in the State, lacking independent financial resources
6 to return to their home states.

7 The legislature further finds that homelessness continues
8 to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social
9 problems. Hawaii has limited resources for human services, and
10 homeless individuals may find their families or home states
11 better equipped to provide support.

12 The legislature additionally finds that between 2014 and
13 2019, the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association helped to
14 coordinate repatriation programs for homeless individuals across
15 the State. Over that five year period, these programs assisted
16 the return of seven hundred forty-four homeless individuals to



1 their home states, with only sixteen individuals, or less than
2 two per cent of program participants, returning to Hawaii.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
4 human services to establish and appropriate funds for a
5 three-year return-to-home pilot program to assist eligible
6 homeless individuals with family reunification.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
8 coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program, to be
9 known as the return-to-home pilot program, to provide eligible
10 homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with
11 family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
12 department shall establish a public-private partnership by
13 contracting with eligible nonprofit organizations, for-profit
14 organizations, or foundations to administer the pilot program
15 without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes. The governor's coordinator on homelessness may assist
17 with the implementation of this program.

18 (b) An individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
19 participate in the return-to-home pilot program if:

20 (1) The individual's participation is completely
21 voluntary;



1 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
2 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
3 the court to participate in the pilot program; and

4 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
5 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
6 to the individual's home state.

7 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
8 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this
9 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
10 shall be kept on file with the department of human services.

11 (d) The return-to-home pilot program shall actively seek
12 the participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
13 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
14 industry to coordinate and implement the pilot program.

15 (e) The return-to-home pilot program shall assist program
16 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,
17 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public
18 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
19 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

20 (f) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
21 on January 1, 2026.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2024-2025 for implementation of the return-to-home pilot
6 program, including all program costs.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
10 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
12 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
13 C.D. 1, will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
14 for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by \$1,063,767,367 or
15 10 per cent. In addition, the appropriations contained in this
16 Act will cause the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal
17 year 2023-2024 to be further exceeded by \$100,000 or 1 per cent.
18 The combined total amount of general fund appropriations
19 contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general
20 fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be



1 exceeded by \$1,063,867,367 or 11 per cent. The reasons for
2 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

3 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
4 serve the public interest; and

5 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
6 addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

DHS; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Pilot Program; Appropriation;
Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the department of human services to establish a three-year return-to-home pilot program to provide eligible homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with family and relatives in their home state. Sunsets 1/1/2026. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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

