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

16 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
17 coordinate a voluntary homeless assistance pilot program, to be



1 known as the return-to-home pilot program, to provide eligible
2 homeless individuals with assistance in being reunited with
3 family and relatives in the individual's home state. The
4 department shall establish a public-private partnership by
5 contracting with eligible nonprofit organizations, for profit
6 organizations, or foundations to administer the pilot program
7 without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes.

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

11 (1) The individual's participation is completely
12 voluntary;

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

16 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
17 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
18 to the individual's home state.

19 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
20 pilot program only once and shall sign an agreement to this



1 effect before participating in the pilot program. The agreement
2 shall be kept on file with the department of human services.

3 (d) Except in cases where the participant is indigent and
4 lacks the financial resources, participants of the return-to-
5 home pilot program or the participant's family or relatives in
6 the participant's home state shall be responsible for one-half
7 of the cost of any transportation used to return the participant
8 to the participant's home state.

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

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

18 (g) The return-to-home pilot program shall cease to exist
19 on June 30, 2026.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
3 year 2024-2025 for implementation of the return-to-home pilot
4 program, including all program costs and hiring of necessary
5 staff; provided that moneys provided to any eligible nonprofit
6 organization, for profit organization, or foundation shall be
7 matched in a dollar-for-dollar basis.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

11



H.B. NO. 1366 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of human services to establish a three-year return-to-home pilot program to return homeless individuals in the State to families and relatives in their home states. Appropriates funds for the implementation of the return-to-home pilot program. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

