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# 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  
2 continues to be one of Hawaii's most dire and persistent  
3 challenges. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately affected by  
4 the housing crisis. Although Native Hawaiians represent less  
5 than twenty per cent of the State's population, according to the  
6 2020 point-in-time count, Native Hawaiians represent over half  
7 of all homeless individuals.

8           The legislature further finds that the department of  
9 Hawaiian home lands owns lots that are available for development  
10 along the Leeward coast of Oahu that might be suitable for a  
11 pilot program that focuses on providing supportive housing to  
12 certain native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

13           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

14           (1) Establish under the department of Hawaiian home lands  
15           a native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on  
16           the Leeward coast of Oahu to provide housing and  
17           services to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are



1 homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and on the  
2 department of Hawaiian home lands waiting list; and  
3 (2) Appropriate funds to support the establishment of the  
4 native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on  
5 the Leeward coast of Oahu.

6 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be established the native  
7 Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward coast  
8 under the department of Hawaiian home lands to provide  
9 individual or shared micro housing units and services to native  
10 Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with  
11 homelessness, and on the department's waiting list. The  
12 department may determine other eligibility requirements as  
13 necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

14 (b) The department may purchase lands and shall retain the  
15 authority to determine which lands to use for the native  
16 Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program.

17 (c) The department shall create and make available  
18 financial education programs to assist participants of the pilot  
19 program to be financially prepared for a transition to long-term  
20 housing solutions.



1 (d) The department may cooperate with any state department  
2 or agency and private nonprofit organizations as needed to  
3 expedite the development and operation of housing under the  
4 native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program, including  
5 agencies with specific expertise in construction development and  
6 agencies with specific expertise in administering homeless  
7 services. The department may construct individual or shared  
8 micro housing units, which shall be situated on the Leeward  
9 coast.

10 (e) The department may coordinate with public or private  
11 entities, as appropriate, to develop and implement the native  
12 Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program; provided that:

13 (1) The department may work with the appropriate  
14 construction entity to ensure that the individual or  
15 shared micro housing units' infrastructure needs are  
16 met and adverse impacts to the environment, including  
17 nearshore resources such as corals, reef fish, and  
18 seabirds are minimized;

19 (2) The individual or shared micro housing units may be  
20 used for affordable housing as may be determined by  
21 the department; and



1 (3) The department may allow for off-the-grid technologies  
2 that can provide drinking water and electricity and  
3 process sewage without existing infrastructure.

4 (f) The native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program  
5 may provide the following facilities and services:

6 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:

7 (A) May be private or communal;

8 (B) Are designed aesthetically and constructed of  
9 quality materials;

10 (C) Have access to toilets, showers, and other  
11 hygiene facilities;

12 (D) Have access to adequate facilities that allow for  
13 cooking and meal preparation; and

14 (E) Have common spaces that build community and  
15 encourage sustainability;

16 (2) Medical and social support services; and

17 (3) Transportation to appointments related to medical care  
18 or supportive services that are not available onsite.

19 (g) The department may consult with the department of  
20 human services and department of health to administer the native



1 Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 (h) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to be  
4 inconsistent with, or contrary to, any act of the Hawaiian Homes  
5 Commission Act, 1920, as amended, or any regulation adopted or  
6 standard established pursuant to that Act.

7 (i) The native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program  
8 shall not be implemented with funds appropriated pursuant to Act  
9 279, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, or funds from any subsequent  
10 Act appropriating funds for the purposes of Act 279, Session  
11 Laws of Hawaii 2022.

12 (j) As used in this section:

13 "Department" means the department of Hawaiian home lands.

14 "Leeward coast" means lands on the island of Oahu west of  
15 Kapolei.

16 "Threatened with homelessness" means lacking the resources  
17 to maintain the mortgage, utility, taxes, or other expenses  
18 associated with maintaining a residence.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2024-2025 to establish and administer the native Hawaiian  
3 supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward coast of Oahu.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

DHHL; Native Hawaiian Supportive Housing Pilot Program; Leeward Coast of Oahu; Homelessness; Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to establish the native Hawaiian supportive housing pilot program on the Leeward Coast of Oahu to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, and on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands waiting list. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

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