
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING.

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 and requires a robust,
3 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 investments
6 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 protect the most vulnerable populations,
15 including the State's kupuna. The 2017 Hawaii Homeless Service
16 Utilization Report found that there are 1,386 homeless elders in
17 the State. Many more elders face homelessness as rents
18 skyrocket. Due to elders' fixed incomes, a state rent
19 supplement program for kupuna is needed to expand on the
20 existing state rent supplement program administered by the
21 Hawaii public housing authority.



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

14 (b) The authority shall:

15 (1) Provide state rent supplement assistance to qualified
16 kupuna; provided that a person who qualifies for the
17 state rent supplement program for kupuna shall
18 participate in the continuum of care coordinated entry
19 system for homeless services;

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



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

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

8 (d) The authority shall be exempt from chapter 103D in
9 selecting a qualified non-profit organization to administer the
10 state rent supplement program for kupuna, and shall, without
11 regard to chapter 91, establish rules and qualification
12 standards for recipients of the state rent supplement program
13 for kupuna.

14 (e) The authority shall submit to the legislature an
15 annual report of its findings and recommendations regarding the
16 state rent supplement program for kupuna, including any proposed
17 legislation, no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
18 each regular session.

19 (f) As used in this section, "qualified kupuna" means a
20 person who is sixty-two years of age or older and is homeless,
21 or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, and who otherwise



1 meets the requirements for a qualified tenant under section
2 356D-153."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for the state rent supplement program for kupuna
8 established under section 356D- , Hawaii Revised Statutes,
9 including full-time equivalent (FTE) public housing
10 specialist positions within the Hawaii public housing authority;
11 provided that any funds appropriated under this section shall be
12 in addition to the base budget of the Hawaii public housing
13 authority for the state rent supplement program.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
15 public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000,
18 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2026.



S.B. NO. 898
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Report Title:

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

Description:

Temporarily expands the State Rent Supplement Program specifically for qualified persons who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Requires the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to submit annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2026. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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