
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that supportive housing
2 is an innovative and proven solution to some of the nation's
3 toughest community problems. It combines affordable housing
4 with access to services to help special needs populations, such
5 as chronic homeless individuals and families; individuals with
6 intellectual, developmental, physical or severe mental
7 disabilities; individuals transitioning from incarceration;
8 emancipated foster youth; individuals addicted to alcohol or
9 drugs; and frail elderly individuals, live more stable and
10 productive lives.

11 According to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a
12 nonprofit organization that has impacted more than two hundred
13 thousand individuals in more than three hundred cities across
14 forty-eight states and the United States Virgin Islands,
15 supportive housing generates significant cost savings to public
16 systems. Cost studies in six different states and cities found
17 that supportive housing results in tenants' decreased use of



1 shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails and prisons. One
2 case study found that an eighty-five-unit supportive housing
3 facility in Charlotte, North Carolina, which serves individuals
4 with extensive histories of homelessness and a disabling
5 condition (mental health and substance abuse disorders, chronic
6 health disorders, physical disabilities, and developmental
7 disabilities), effectively ended homelessness for eighty-one per
8 cent of its tenants. This significant housing stability rate is
9 consistent with other permanent supportive housing models across
10 the country. Moreover, there were significant reductions to
11 emergency room visits (eighty-one per cent), hospital stays
12 (sixty-two per cent), ambulance calls (seventy-six per cent),
13 and for tenants involved with the criminal justice system,
14 reductions in arrests (eighty-two per cent) and nights in jail
15 (eighty per cent).

16 Supportive housing also helps build strong, healthy
17 communities by improving the safety of neighborhoods,
18 beautifying city blocks with new or rehabilitated properties,
19 and increasing or stabilizing property values over time.

20 According to studies from Hawaii Pathways Project and the
21 city and county of Honolulu's housing first program, supportive



1 housing has shown similar positive impacts as in other
2 jurisdictions. Supportive housing benefits include:

- 3 (1) For individuals, improved housing retention, health,
4 and quality of life;
- 5 (2) For systems, reduced burdens and costs on already
6 stretched public systems, such as public safety and
7 emergency medical services; and
- 8 (3) For the community, decreased crime rates and increased
9 or no impact on property values.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
11 supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and
12 maintaining supportive housing opportunities for persons having
13 special needs.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the supportive
15 housing pilot program, within the statewide office on
16 homelessness and housing solutions, to provide and maintain
17 affordable, permanent housing and services for persons and
18 families having special needs.

19 (b) The statewide office on homelessness and housing
20 solutions shall collaborate with the Hawaii housing finance and
21 development corporation, Hawaii public housing authority, and



1 various state, county, and community agencies to implement the
2 pilot program.

3 (c) The Hawaii housing finance and development corporation
4 shall assist in the development of a rental housing project or
5 projects in which some or all of the units are developed for
6 persons having special needs or families requiring supportive
7 services, and with household incomes at or below thirty per cent
8 of the median family income. The Hawaii housing finance
9 development corporation, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes, may establish rules and qualification criteria
11 for the award of supportive housing projects.

12 (d) The Hawaii public housing authority shall implement
13 project-based rent supplement payments at levels sufficient to
14 fill the gap between the flat rents needed to cover project
15 financing, operating, maintenance, or other costs, and an amount
16 that eligible residents can afford; provided that the Hawaii
17 public housing authority may enter into memoranda of agreements
18 with the counties or specialized nonprofit organizations as
19 necessary to implement this subsection. The Hawaii public
20 housing authority, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, may establish rules and qualification standards for
2 recipients of supportive housing.

3 (e) The statewide office on homelessness and housing
4 solutions shall provide supportive services to assist residents
5 participating in the pilot program in obtaining and retaining
6 housing, improving their health status, and maximizing their
7 ability to live and, when possible, work in the community.
8 Supportive services may include assistance with mental health,
9 substance abuse disorders, and daily living activities. The
10 supportive services funding of approximately \$800 per month is
11 intended to be matched by federal medicaid funds. The statewide
12 office on homelessness and housing solutions may enter into
13 memoranda of agreement with the counties or specialized
14 nonprofit organizations as necessary to implement this section.
15 The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions,
16 without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, may
17 establish rules and qualification standards for recipients of
18 supportive housing.

19 (f) The statewide office on homelessness and housing
20 solutions shall develop an information system for the
21 standardized collection of client-level data and data on the



1 provision of housing and services to persons and families in
2 need of, or currently residing in, supportive housing. The
3 information system is intended to assist stakeholders in
4 measuring the need for supportive housing and assessing and
5 improving the effectiveness of the pilot program.

6 (g) The Hawaii housing finance and development
7 corporation, Hawaii public housing authority, and statewide
8 office on homelessness and housing solutions shall submit a joint
9 interim report of its findings and recommendations, including
10 any proposed legislation, regarding the supportive housing pilot
11 program to the legislature by December 1, 2024, and a final
12 report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be
16 deposited into the rental housing revolving fund established in
17 section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the rental housing
19 revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may
20 be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for:



- 1 (1) Supportive housing projects or supportive housing
- 2 units in rental projects developed for persons having
- 3 special needs families requiring supportive services,
- 4 and having household incomes at or below thirty per
- 5 cent of the median family income; and
- 6 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent housing
- 7 finance specialist I position.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
9 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
10 this Act; provided that the appropriation shall not lapse at the
11 end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made;
12 provided further that any moneys not awarded as of June 30,
13 2025, may be used for other rental housing projects pursuant to
14 section 201H-202(e)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided
15 further that all moneys from the appropriation that are
16 unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse on that date.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for:

- 20 (1) Contracts, not to exceed twenty years, for new
- 21 supportive housing rental projects or supportive



1 housing rental units in rental projects for
2 project-based rent supplement payments for the pilot
3 program; and

4 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent housing
5 public housing specialist position.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
7 housing authority for the purposes of this Act; provided that
8 the appropriation shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
9 biennium for which the appropriation is made; provided further
10 that all moneys from the appropriation that are unencumbered as
11 of June 30, 2026, shall lapse on that date.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for:

15 (1) The provision of support services for qualified
16 individuals and families in new supportive housing;
17 and

18 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the statewide
20 office on homelessness and housing solutions for the purposes of
21 this Act; provided that the appropriation shall not lapse at the



1 end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made;
2 provided further that all moneys from the appropriation that are
3 unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse on that date.

4 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the
7 development of a supportive housing information system.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the statewide
9 office on homelessness and housing solutions for the purposes of
10 this Act; provided that the appropriation shall not lapse at the
11 end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made;
12 provided further that all moneys from the appropriation that are
13 unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse on that date.

14 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions; Supportive Housing Pilot Program; Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Rental Housing Revolving Fund; Appropriations; Reports

Description:

Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Appropriates funds. Requires reports to the Legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD2)

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

