

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO \$201H-181 RENT-TO-OWN PROGRAM.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that home ownership is
- 2 one of the pillars of wealth generation. Renting a home removes
- 3 wealth from a family, while owning a home builds equity over
- 4 time. The state has seen the wisdom of helping residents use
- 5 their rental funds towards homeownership in the establishing of
- 6 the Rent-to-Own Program in HRS 201H-181. The Hawaii housing
- 7 finance and development corporation has been slow in
- 8 implementing this program on any meaningful level.
- 9 This Act will require the Hawaii housing finance and
- 10 development corporation to implement its Rent-to-Own Program.
- 11 SECTION 2. Section 201h-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 12 amended to read as follows:
- 13 "H. Rent-to-Own Program
- 14 [§201H-181] Rent-to-own program. (a) The corporation
- 15 [may] shall establish a rent-to-own program under which dwelling
- 16 units that are for sale may be rented to program participants.
- 17 Under this program, the corporation shall credit [a portion of]



## H.B. NO. 1142

- 1 the rent received, minus any maintenance fees, toward the
- 2 purchase of the unit.
- 3 (b) The sales price shall be established at the beginning
- 4 of the rental term and shall remain fixed for the first [five]
- 5 ten years after the rental agreement is executed. During this
- 6 period, the participant shall have the option of purchasing the
- 7 unit at the designated sales price. If the participant does not
- 8 elect to purchase the unit within the [five] ten-year period,
- 9 the renter shall forfeit the right to continue living in the
- 10 unit and the unit shall be made available to another purchaser
- 11 or renter.
- (c) The corporation shall have the right to reestablish
- 13 the sales price upon expiration of the option period or upon
- 14 resale of the unit."
- 15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
- 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
- 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for
- 18 staffing and resources to implement and publicize the Rent-to-
- 19 Own Program.

### H.B. NO. 1142

- 1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
- 2 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
- 3 this Act.
- 4 SECTION 4. The Hawaii housing finance and development
- 5 corporation shall submit a report of its progress and
- 6 recommendations, including any needed funding or staffing, to
- 7 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
- $oldsymbol{8}$  of the regular session of 2024, and each subsequent year.
- 9 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- 11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 2 4 2023

# H.B. NO. 1142

#### Report Title:

Rent-to-Own Housing Program, HHFDC, homeownership, appropriation

### Description:

Requires the HHFDC to implement its Rent-to-Own Housing Program, increases the time that the owner/renter can build equity from five years to ten years. Appropriates funds for staffing and implementing the program.

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