
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 has and
2 continues to remain a persistent problem throughout the State.
3 To address homelessness in the State, the department of human
4 services' homeless programs office contracts with homeless
5 service providers to provide homeless outreach, shelter, case
6 management, and all of the attendant services to transition
7 homeless individuals from the street to transitional housing and
8 ultimately to some form of supportive or permanent housing.

9 The legislature further finds that except for an
10 appropriation made in the regular session of 2024 for a five per
11 cent budget increase, there has been no increase in funding for
12 the department of human services' homeless service contracts for
13 over ten years, even as costs for wages, utilities, and all
14 administrative services of running all businesses have
15 increased. Additionally, the five per cent increase into the
16 base budget of the homeless programs office in 2024 was



1 insufficient to cover full program costs and the rising costs of
2 living for providers.

3 As a result, homeless service providers contracted with the
4 homeless programs office have attempted to fill funding
5 shortfalls through their own fundraising efforts but can no
6 longer bridge the expanding gap. If state funding is not
7 increased to meet actual service delivery costs, contracted
8 homeless service providers will be forced to either decline
9 contracts or reduce essential services, despite rising community
10 needs.

11 The purpose of this Act is to increase the base budget of
12 the department of human services' homeless programs office to
13 address the need for homeless services and ensure that these
14 organizations can address the high cost of living for their
15 employees so that the critical work with Hawaii's homeless
16 populations is maintained.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$8,175,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2026-2027 for homeless programs in the State; provided that the



1 appropriated amount shall be in addition to the homeless
2 programs office's base budget of \$27,250,000 for fiscal year
3 2025-2026.

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

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1488

Report Title:

Homeless Services; Department of Human Services; Homeless Programs Office; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds in addition to the base budget of the Department of Human Services' Homeless Programs Office to address the need for homeless services in the State.

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