
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Part XVIII, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 **"§346- Return-to-Home Program.** (a) The statewide
5 office on homelessness and housing solutions shall coordinate a
6 voluntary homeless assistance program, to be known as the
7 return-to-home program, to provide eligible homeless individuals
8 with assistance in being reunited with family and relatives in
9 the individual's home state. The office shall establish a
10 public-private partnership by contracting with eligible
11 nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, or
12 foundations to administer the program without regard to chapters
13 103D and 103F. The governor's coordinator on homelessness may
14 assist with the implementation of this program.

15 (b) An individual who is homeless shall be eligible to
16 participate in the return-to-home program if:



- 1 (1) The individual's participation is completely
- 2 voluntary;
- 3 (2) The individual, if on parole, probation, or awaiting a
- 4 court hearing or sentencing, has proper clearance from
- 5 the court to participate in the program; and
- 6 (3) The individual is indigent and lacks the financial
- 7 resources necessary to secure transportation to return
- 8 to the individual's home state.
- 9 (c) An individual shall participate in the return-to-home
- 10 program only once and shall sign an agreement to this effect
- 11 before participating in the program. The agreement shall be
- 12 kept on file with the statewide office on homelessness and
- 13 housing solutions.
- 14 (d) The return-to-home program shall actively seek the
- 15 participation of local airlines, cruise lines, charter
- 16 companies, homeless programs, travel agencies, and the visitor
- 17 industry to coordinate and implement the program.
- 18 (e) The return-to-home program shall assist program
- 19 participants with necessary and proper preparations for travel,
- 20 including obtaining proper identification, accessing public



1 transportation to the airport, providing orientation relating to
2 airport security, and ensuring sufficient personal hygiene.

3 (f) The statewide office on homelessness and housing
4 solutions shall submit a report of its findings and
5 recommendations relating to the return-to-home program,
6 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
7 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
8 session."

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
12 the return-to-home program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the statewide
14 office on homelessness and housing solutions for the purposes of
15 this Act.

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2481

Report Title:

OHHS; Homelessness; Return-to-Home Program; Report;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to establish a permanent Return-to-Home Program to return homeless individuals in the State to families and relatives in their home states. Requires the Office to report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

