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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1           SECTION 1. For many years, the State has used homeless  
2 shelters and transitional group homes as an interim measure  
3 while attempting to place as many persons experiencing  
4 homelessness as possible into subsidized rentals and  
5 traditionally-constructed apartments. Economic constraints,  
6 construction delays, and landlords' resistance to homeless  
7 tenants have made the supply of subsidized rentals and  
8 traditionally-constructed housing inadequate to meet the demand  
9 by persons experiencing homelessness. In addition, many persons  
10 who struggle with mental illness or substance abuse are forced  
11 to live unsheltered because they cannot reside in close quarters  
12 with others in a shelter or group home.

13           However, recent technical innovations have made it possible  
14 to build enough dwellings for every homeless person in Hawaii at  
15 a lower cost than what the State spends on the ancillary costs  
16 for unsheltered and nomadic homeless persons. These innovations  
17 will allow the State to place more individuals experiencing



1 homelessness into housing more expeditiously and in accordance  
2 with housing first principles.

3 Multiple national studies show that housing first programs  
4 are enormously effective, mostly because the programs combine  
5 the stability of a permanent home with supportive services and  
6 treatment. As a result, housing first programs also foster  
7 recovery from addiction, mental illness, and other afflictions  
8 of homeless persons.

9 The legislature finds that chronic, unsheltered, nomadic  
10 homelessness is a humanitarian disaster endangering public  
11 health and safety. The legislature also finds that there is  
12 sufficient under- or unutilized state land suitable for the  
13 construction of homeless villages. The legislature further  
14 finds that the use of current technology to build homeless  
15 villages on state land will allow the State to create housing  
16 and implement housing first principles on a scale large enough  
17 to greatly reduce if not end homelessness in Hawaii.

18 The purpose of this Act is to increase efforts to reduce  
19 homelessness by making certain parcels of state land available  
20 to establish homeless villages that will provide approximately  
21 eight thousand units for individuals experiencing homelessness;



1 providing assessments, services, and referral services for  
2 individuals within the homeless villages under a housing first  
3 paradigm; and providing government employees and volunteers with  
4 immunity for injuries and damages resulting from the provision  
5 of services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

6 SECTION 2. This Act shall be known as the Puuhonua  
7 homeless villages act.

8 SECTION 3. (a) The governor shall take all steps and  
9 engage in all actions necessary to make available the following  
10 parcels of land for the purpose of providing housing and  
11 supportive services to homeless persons:

12 (1) At least seventy of the one hundred forty-one acres of  
13 Tract Number 005700, Block Number 1035, located at  
14 1640 Sand Island Parkway, Honolulu, otherwise known as  
15 the Sand Island Recreation Area;

16 (2) All of the one hundred ten acres of Tract Number  
17 980300, Block Number 1010, located at 91-319 Olai  
18 Street, Campbell Industrial Park, in Kapolei; and

19 (3) All of the twenty acres of Tract Number 009701, Block  
20 Number 3005, located at 85-251 Farrington Highway, in  
21 Waianae.



1 (b) The governor shall submit a report to the legislature  
2 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of every  
3 regular session on the progress made in acquiring the parcels of  
4 state land specified in subsection (a) until all required  
5 parcels of land have been acquired for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. (a) There is established within the department  
7 of human services a Puuhonua homeless villages program. The  
8 program shall provide housing and supportive services to  
9 individuals experiencing homelessness under a housing first  
10 paradigm. A minimum of eight thousand homes shall be completed  
11 within two years after the effective date of this Act or two  
12 years after the date the governor makes the land available for  
13 the Puuhonua homeless villages program, whichever occurs later.

14 (b) Each homeless village shall:

15 (1) Be a minimum of two acres in size and contain no more  
16 than one hundred homes;

17 (2) Have a community center, which the department shall  
18 make reasonable efforts to complete at a cost of  
19 \$100,000 for each community center, that includes:

20 (A) Communal showers;

21 (B) Bathrooms;



- 1 (C) A kitchen;
- 2 (D) Lockers for residents' valuables;
- 3 (E) Mailboxes for incoming mail; and
- 4 (F) A multipurpose room for residential meetings and
- 5 supportive services; and

6 (3) Have systems to dispose of trash and other waste.

7 (c) Each home within the homeless village shall adhere to  
8 the following requirements:

9 (1) The construction cost for each home shall not exceed  
10 \$15,000;

11 (2) Each home shall have at least three hundred square  
12 feet of living space, electricity with lighting, and a  
13 minimum of eight standard electrical outlets; and

14 (3) Each home shall be a private dwelling for an  
15 individual or family experiencing homelessness;  
16 provided that individuals who are unrelated shall not  
17 be required to share a home.

18 (d) Individuals or families experiencing homelessness  
19 shall be charged the cost of rent, utilities, and supportive  
20 services as follows:



- 1           (1) Individuals and families experiencing homelessness  
2           that have no income shall not be charged;
- 3           (2) Individuals who have income but are experiencing  
4           homelessness shall not be charged more than twenty per  
5           cent of the individual's gross monthly income; and
- 6           (3) Families that have income but are experiencing  
7           homelessness shall not be charged more than twenty per  
8           cent of the family's aggregate monthly income, less  
9           \$100 per month for each dependent family member that  
10          resides in the home;

11 provided that the department may adjust these amounts for  
12 inflation.

13           (e) The department of human services shall:

- 14           (1) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
15           Statutes, as well as policies and procedures, for the  
16           purpose of qualifying applicants for residency under  
17           the Puuhonua homeless villages program; provided that:
- 18           (A) Qualification rules, policies, and procedures  
19           shall be consistent with the rules, policies, and  
20           procedures of the United States Department of



- 1                   Housing and Urban Development's Coordinated Entry  
2                   System;
- 3                   (B) Qualification procedures provide for rapid  
4                   admission, to the extent possible; and
- 5                   (C) Qualification procedures use the least  
6                   restrictive standards practicable;
- 7                   (2) Establish rules for residents of the homeless villages  
8                   that shall be reasonably consistent with housing first  
9                   principles and shall make reasonable efforts to allow  
10                   residents to participate in self-government;
- 11                   (3) Collaborate with appropriate departmental personnel  
12                   and state and county law enforcement agencies to  
13                   provide security for the Puuhonua homeless villages  
14                   program; and
- 15                   (4) Work with appropriate agencies to ensure that  
16                   residents have reasonable access to public  
17                   transportation.
- 18                   (f) All state and county permitting and construction fees  
19                   shall be waived for the homes and homeless village structures  
20                   constructed pursuant to this Act.



1 SECTION 5. Chapter 662, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§662- Limited liability for providing services to  
5 individuals experiencing homelessness. No public entity or  
6 public employee shall be liable to any person for injury or  
7 damage caused by a public employee providing services to  
8 individuals experiencing homelessness; provided that the  
9 employee was acting in good faith and within the scope of the  
10 employee's functions and duties as an employee of the State."

11 SECTION 6. Chapter 662D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§662D- Limited liability for volunteers for the  
15 government entity providing services to individuals experiencing  
16 homelessness. (a) No volunteer for a governmental entity shall  
17 be liable to any person for injury or damage caused by a  
18 volunteer providing services to individuals experiencing  
19 homelessness; provided that the volunteer was acting in good  
20 faith and within the scope of the volunteer's functions and  
21 duties.





1           (b) No nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation  
2 that provides volunteers to a governmental entity providing  
3 services to individuals experiencing homelessness shall be  
4 liable to any person for injury or damage caused by the  
5 volunteer; provided that the volunteer was acting in good faith  
6 and within the scope of the volunteer's functions and duties."

7           SECTION 7. Appropriation. (a) There is appropriated out  
8 of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of  
9 \$190,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
10 year 2018-2019 to establish the Puuhonua homeless villages  
11 program and construct homes and infrastructure as required by  
12 this Act.

13           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15           (b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of  
16 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$208,000,000 or so much thereof  
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
18 management, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of Puuhonua  
19 homeless villages as required by this Act.

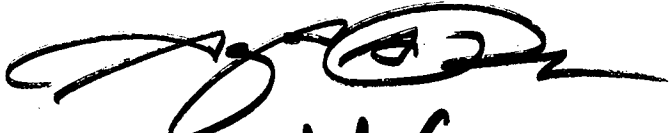
20           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
21 human services for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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# H.B. NO. 2014

**Report Title:**

Puuhonua Homeless Villages Program; Appropriation; Homelessness; Department of Human Services; Government Liability; Immunity

**Description:**

Requires the Governor to make available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village and establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program. Provides limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services. Makes an appropriation.

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

