

JAN 26 2022

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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. The legislature finds that homelessness is one  
2 of the most pressing problems in Hawaii. Hawaii has the highest  
3 homelessness rate in the nation, which is driven by insufficient  
4 affordable housing. Through improved coordination and  
5 investment in proven programs such as housing first, Hawaii is  
6 turning the tide on the homelessness crisis. In 2017, Hawaii  
7 saw its first reduction in the rate of homelessness in years.  
8 However, given the magnitude of homelessness in the State,  
9 Hawaii must continue to increase investments in housing and  
10 other supports to fully address homelessness.

11           Chronic homelessness is distinct from other forms of  
12 homelessness and is defined by being continuously homeless for a  
13 year or more, or having had at least four episodes of  
14 homelessness in the past three years. The unaddressed problem  
15 of chronic homeless is a particularly costly problem for Hawaii  
16 that places a large burden on the State's health care and  
17 emergency service systems. Addressing chronic homelessness



1 across the State will result in significant cost savings for  
2 health care and emergency services systems and create a solid  
3 foundation for addressing other forms of homelessness.

4 The legislature also finds that, according to the Partners  
5 in Care 2020 point in time report, Oahu has 3,257 chronically  
6 homeless individuals. Permanent supportive housing is the best  
7 way to address chronic homelessness. Permanent supportive  
8 housing is an approach to homelessness that integrates  
9 permanent, affordable rental housing with best practice  
10 community-based supportive services to allow individuals and  
11 households who have serious and long-term disabilities such as  
12 mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, physical  
13 disabilities, substance use disorders, and chronic health  
14 conditions to maintain stable housing in the community.

15 An initial investment of \$60,000,000 will cover the  
16 development and construction costs of one hundred permanent  
17 supportive housing units.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

19 (1) Authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and  
20 appropriate bond proceeds to the Hawaii public housing  
21 authority to begin the development and construction



1 with a qualified developer or operator of permanent  
2 supportive housing units to meet the needs of  
3 chronically homeless individuals in the State; and  
4 (2) Prioritize competitive federal low-income housing tax  
5 credits for the construction of permanent supportive  
6 housing units.

7 SECTION 2. The Hawaii housing finance and development  
8 corporation shall designate and give priority of any applicable  
9 competitive federal low-income housing tax credits allowed under  
10 section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,  
11 that are needed for the construction of permanent supportive  
12 housing units developed and constructed pursuant to this Act to  
13 the Hawaii public housing authority, the developer or operator  
14 partnered with the Hawaii public housing authority for the  
15 construction of permanent supportive housing units, or both.

16 SECTION 3. (a) To promote the quick construction of  
17 permanent supportive housing units authorized under this Act,  
18 the Hawaii public housing authority shall be exempt from chapter  
19 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

20 (b) The Hawaii public housing authority shall include the  
21 status of the development and operation of permanent supportive



1 housing units authorized under this Act in its annual report to  
2 the legislature required pursuant to section 356D-20, Hawaii  
3 Revised Statutes.

4 (c) The department of land and natural resources shall  
5 assist the Hawaii public housing authority by providing suitable  
6 public lands for this project.

7 (d) The Hawaii public housing authority may partner with  
8 other appropriate government and non-government entities to  
9 ensure that sufficient and appropriate services are accounted  
10 for in the development and operation of permanent supportive  
11 housing units.

12 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
13 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$60,000,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
15 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2022-2023  
16 for the initial phase of development and construction of up to  
17 one hundred permanent supportive housing units to meet the needs  
18 of chronically homeless individuals and families.

19 SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital  
20 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
21 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is



1 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
2 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. M. ...", is written over a horizontal line.



# S.B. NO. 3368

**Report Title:**

Chronically Homeless; Permanent Supportive Housing; Low-Income Housing Tax Credit; General Obligation Bonds; Hawaii Public Housing Authority

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the development and construction of permanent supportive housing. Directs the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to prioritize the construction of permanent supportive housing for any available federal low-income housing tax credits.

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

