

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Background: The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) was first established as a volunteer council in 2004, and later formally established through Executive Order by Governor Neil Abercrombie in 2011. In 2012, Hawaii formally established the HICH in statute through Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

Key Date:

- **2004** The HICH was established as a volunteer council, which evolved out of the HUD Homeless Policy and two sub-committees related to the chronically homeless and homeless families. The HICH was chaired by Sandi Miyoshi (then-administrator of the HPO). The State Homeless Coordinator Russ Saito also served as a member. This group:
 - Developed and issued a 10-year plan to address homelessness in 2004.
 - Advocated for the establishment of the Housing First special fund and the establishment of a State Housing First pilot.
- **2011** The HICH was formally established as a 24-member Council through Executive Order by then-Governor Neil Abercrombie. The Governor served as Chair, and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness Marc Alexander served as Vice Chair. This group began work on the 2012 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.
- **2012** The State Legislature passed Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, which established the HICH in statute. Hawaii became the first state in the nation to formally establish its interagency council in statute. The law designated the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness as the Chair, and placed the HICH administratively within the Department of Human Services.
- **2013** The State Legislature passed Act 76, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, which amended the membership of the HICH to include the Executive Director of the HPHA, and provided for the House and Senate to designate alternate representatives for their respective bodies.

[PART XVIII.] HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Note Establishment of designated safe facilities for overnight stays. L 2012, c 105, §4.

[\$346-381] Hawaii interagency council on homelessness; establishment. (a) There is established the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness, which shall be an advisory body exempt from section 26-34. The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall be established within the department of human services for administrative purposes.

(b) The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall:

- (1) Serve as the statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity with broad representation from state and county government and the community;
- (2) Formulate, and advise the governor on the implementation of, a unified ten-year statewide plan to address homelessness in all Hawaii counties;
- (3) Facilitate the acquisition of funding and resources for state and county homeless programs;
- (4) Recommend policy, regulatory, and statutory changes, and identify resource strategies for the successful execution of the ten-year plan;
- (5) Assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information to support policy development and track outcomes;
- (6) Consider collaborative homelessness initiatives of other states that have demonstrated positive measurable outcomes as possible models for state and local programs;
- (7) Promote systems integration of social, health, training, and housing services to reduce duplication among homeless assistance programs;
- (8) Advise on the development and implementation of a public education program on homelessness in Hawaii and disseminate information including data and best practices; and
- (9) Report annually to the governor, the legislature, and the mayor of each county on the progress of its activities, including formulation and progress of the ten-year plan no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

(c) The ten-year statewide plan developed by the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall:

- (1) Assist individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness;
- (2) Prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families;

- (3) Encourage and promote partnerships between public and private entities to identify, renovate, and secure dignified transitional and permanent housing options;
- (4) Promote development and utilization of support services, including job training, mental health, and substance abuse treatment, that will enhance the transition out of homelessness;
- (5) Increase access to public areas for all members of the community;
- (6) Support efforts to obtain accurate statistics on homeless persons; and
- (7) Activate, coordinate, and maintain responsive action among the public, business, and faith-based communities to become part of the homelessness solution strategy. [L 2012, c 105, pt of §2]

§346-382 Membership. (a) The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall be composed of the following members or the member's designee:

- (1) Governor's coordinator on homelessness, who shall serve as chair;
- (2) Director of human services;
- (3) Administrator of the homeless programs office of the department of human services;
- (4) Director of health;
- (5) Director of labor and industrial relations;
- (6) Director of public safety;
- (7) Director of business, economic development, and tourism;
- (8) Chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission;
- (9) Adjutant general;
- (10) Chairperson of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs;
- (11) Attorney general;
- (12) Superintendent of education;
- (13) Two members of the house of representatives to be designated by the speaker of the house of representatives, of whom one member shall be designated by the speaker of the house of representatives to serve as an alternate member on the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness to serve in the other member's absence;
- (14) Two members of the senate to be designated by the president of the senate, of whom one member shall be designated by the president of the senate to serve as an alternate member on the Hawaii interagency council

- on homelessness to serve in the other member's absence;
- (15) A representative of the Hawaii public housing authority;
 - (16) The mayor of each county;
 - (17) A representative of the continuum of care programs in each county, to be designated by the respective mayors;
 - (18) A representative of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs who shall be requested to serve by the governor;
 - (19) A representative from the Office of Community Planning and Development, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, who shall be requested to serve by the governor;
 - (20) A representative of a faith-based organization with interfaith relationships, to be designated by the governor; and
 - (21) A representative of the business community, to be designated by the governor.

(b) The nongovernmental members of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (a) (13) and (a) (14), if a member of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness is unable to attend a meeting, that member may appoint a designee to attend and to act on the member's behalf during the meeting.

(d) Chapter 84 shall not apply to the members of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness. [L 2012, c 105, pt of §2; am L 2013, c 76, §1]

[\$346-383] Meetings; quorum. (a) The Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall meet quarterly, or more frequently as it deems necessary.

(b) A majority of the members of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness shall constitute a quorum to do business and to validate any decision or act of the council. [L 2012, c 105, pt of §2]