

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2012**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 346-378,
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
DECEMBER 2011**

**STATUS REPORT TO THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO
SECTION 346-378, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ON HOUSING FIRST
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the Department of Human Services to report to the Legislature on:

- (1) Total number of participants in housing first programs;
- (2) Annual costs of the programs;
- (3) Types of support services offered; and
- (4) Duration of services required for each participant.

The funds for the Housing First program were appropriated during the 2010 Legislature, however, the funds were not released until mid-2011 and has resulted in a delay for implementing the program. At the end of November 2011, the Department of Human Services issued a Request for Proposals for the Housing First initiative utilizing the \$1,000,000 Legislative appropriation for the program from the State's "Rainy Day Fund." DHS will provide the required information on the Housing First program after the current Request for Proposal process is completed and the program is implemented.

The program opportunities in the Request for Proposal for the Housing First Program closely resembles the requirements of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Shelter Plus Care program and the Veterans Administration Veteran's Assisted Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program for homeless veterans. These similar programs provide permanent housing rent subsidy and the support services to ensure that formerly homeless clients stay housed for the long term. Initially, the cost of the service match is about a dollar for dollar equivalent of the rent subsidy provided monthly. However, after a period of time, stability is achieved and there is less need for support services.

These programs require permanent housing placement and ongoing support services to ensure client success at staying stably housed. Each year, the counties apply for increasing numbers of Shelter Plus Care vouchers which provide rent subsidies for the disabled homeless. The Shelter Plus Care program requires an in-kind match of support services. To date, the State of Hawaii has 658 permanent housing placements plus support services through Shelter Plus Care and VASH:

Neighbor Islands:	106 Shelter Plus Care Placements
City and County of Honolulu:	357 Shelter Plus Care Placements
State of Hawaii:	195 VASH Vouchers