

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2011**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
ACT 212, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2010**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Benefit, Employment, And Support Services Division
December 2010**

STATUS REPORT TO THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO ACT 212, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII (SLH) 2010, ON HOUSING FIRST PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Act 212, SLH 2010, established the Housing First Special Fund and required the implementation of Housing First programs and services, subject to the availability of existing funds or housing first special fund moneys. The act also requires a 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.

As of the end of December 2010, the State's Housing First initiative has been on hold pending release of the \$1,000,000 Legislative appropriation for the program from the State's "Rainy Day Fund". The Governor-elect has indicated that he intends to release the funding for the program, at which time the Department of Human Services will post a Request for Proposals to procure services under the program.

The Housing First program is very much like the Housing and Urban Development Shelter Plus Care Program and the VASH (Veteran's Assisted Supportive Housing) vouchers for homeless veterans. All three of the programs require permanent housing placement and on-going support services to ensure client success at staying stably housed. Each year, the City and County of Honolulu and the Neighbor Island Counties apply for increasing numbers of Shelter Plus Care vouchers which provide rent subsidies for the disabled homeless and a requirement of an in-kind match of support services. To date, the State of Hawaii has the following inventory of permanent housing placements plus services in force.

Neighbor Islands:	115 Shelter Plus Care Placements 25 VASH Vouchers
City and County of Honolulu:	413 Shelter Plus Care Placements 80 VASH Vouchers

The program requirements in the Request for Proposal for the Housing First Program will very closely resemble the requirements of Shelter Plus Care and VASH with regard to providing permanent housing and all of the support services to ensure that the clients stay housed for the long term.