
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as the cost of
2 living increases each year, the standard of need in Hawaii,
3 which is based on the federal poverty level for the State, is
4 not adjusted to reflect this increase and is still based on the
5 federal poverty level in 1993. The legislature further finds
6 that the medically needy income standard is based on the
7 standard of need for the State and is adjusted when the standard
8 of need payment is changed.

9 The purpose of this Act is to adjust the State's standard
10 of need by updating it to reflect the current federal poverty
11 level for Hawaii. The legislature's intent is also to adjust
12 the medically needy income standard to reflect the annual
13 standard of need for the State.

14 SECTION 2. Section 346-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

16 "(a) This subsection [~~does not~~] shall apply to general
17 assistance to households [~~without~~] with minor dependents[-] and
18 includes the aged, blind, and disabled. The standard of need



1 for families of given sizes shall equal _____ per cent of the
2 current poverty level established by the federal government [~~in~~
3 ~~1993,~~] prorated over a twelve-month period.

4 The assistance allowance provided shall be based on a
5 percentage of the standard of need. For exempt households and
6 households in which all caretaker relatives are minors, living
7 independently with minor dependents and attending school, the
8 assistance allowance shall be set at sixty-two and one-half per
9 cent of the standard of need. For all other households, the
10 assistance allowance shall be set no higher than sixty-two and
11 one-half per cent of the standard of need and set no lower than
12 fifty per cent of the standard of need. The standard of need
13 shall be determined by dividing _____ per cent of the [~~1993~~]
14 current federal poverty level by twelve and rounding down the
15 quotient. The remaining quotient shall be multiplied by the per
16 cent as set by the director by rules pursuant to chapter 91, and
17 the final product shall be rounded down to determine the
18 assistance allowance; provided that:

19 (1) The department may increase or reduce the assistance
20 allowance as determined in this subsection for
21 non-exempt households for the purpose of providing

1 work incentives or services under part XI [~~of this~~
2 ~~chapter~~];

3 (2) No reduction shall be allowed that jeopardizes
4 eligibility for or receipt of federal funds;

5 (3) Reductions in the assistance allowance shall be
6 limited to no more than one per year; and

7 (4) No non-exempt household, which includes an adult who
8 has received sixty cumulative months of temporary
9 assistance to needy families with minor dependents,
10 shall be eligible for an assistance allowance, unless
11 authorized by federal regulations.

12 (b) The director shall determine the allowance for general
13 assistance to households without minor dependents based upon the
14 [~~total amount appropriated for general assistance to households~~
15 ~~without minor dependents,~~] standard of need, among other
16 relevant factors."

17 SECTION 3. Section 346-71, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

19 "(e) Within the limitations of this section, the
20 department shall, by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91,
21 determine:

1 (1) The allowance for general assistance to households
2 without minor dependents based upon the [~~total amount~~
3 ~~appropriated for general assistance to households~~
4 ~~without minor dependents,~~] standard of need;

5 (2) A method for determining assistance amounts; and

6 (3) Other necessary provisions to implement general
7 assistance to households without minor dependents."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2099.

Report Title:

Welfare Payments; Standard of Need

Description:

Increases standard of need from the 1993 federal poverty level to the current poverty level. Includes the aged, blind, and disabled in determining the amounts of assistance. Removes limitation on making general assistance payments only from total appropriations for that purpose. (SB475 HD1)



