
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,
5 appropriated a certain designated sum to the department of human
6 services to provide funds for the general assistance program
7 under the benefit, employment and support services division for
8 the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2005, and ending
9 June 30, 2006.

10 A critical funding emergency exists. Pursuant to section
11 346-53(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the general assistance
12 program is a block grant program. The maximum allowance a
13 general assistance recipient may receive is determined by
14 dividing the amount of the appropriation by the number of
15 general assistance recipients. The general assistance program
16 will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the current
17 fiscal year and the department will be unable to maintain the
18 current maximum \$418 per month general assistance payment



1 benefit to approximately three thousand eight hundred fifty
2 disabled recipients. The current assistance grant for disabled
3 individuals is based on 62.5% of the 1993 federal poverty level.
4 This amount is barely enough to cover living expenses for
5 individuals on a fixed income that have no other viable means of
6 support. Stopping the grant payment or reducing the amount of
7 the grant payment for these individuals poses a real threat to
8 the individual's health and safety. To prevent the reduction of
9 general assistance payments in the fourth quarter of fiscal year
10 2005-2006, additional funds are urgently needed.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$416,718 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006 to be used
14 for general assistance payments.

15 SECTION 4. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
16 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

SB2333, SD1

Report Title:

General Assistance; Emergency Appropriation

Description:

Emergency appropriation (\$416,718) to ensure that the General Assistance payment is maintained at \$418 per month per eligible recipient through the end of FY 2005-2006. (SD1)

