
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.

6 The purpose of this Act is to adjust the State's standard
7 of need by updating it to reflect the 2006 federal poverty level
8 for Hawaii.

9 SECTION 2. Section 346-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

11 "(a) This subsection does not apply to general assistance
12 to households without minor dependents. The standard of need
13 [~~for families of given sizes~~] shall equal the poverty level
14 established by the federal government in [~~1993,~~] 2006, prorated
15 over a twelve-month period[~~-~~] based on family size.

16 The assistance allowance provided shall be based on a
17 percentage of the standard of need. For exempt households and
18 households in which all caretaker relatives are minors, living



1 independently with minor dependents and attending school, the
2 assistance allowance shall be set [~~at~~] no higher than sixty-two
3 and one-half per cent and no lower than forty-four per cent of
4 the standard of need. For all other households, the assistance
5 allowance shall be set no higher than sixty-two and one-half per
6 cent of the standard of need and set no lower than [~~fifty~~]
7 thirty-four per cent of the standard of need. The standard of
8 need shall be determined by dividing the [~~1993~~] 2006 federal
9 poverty level by twelve and rounding down the quotient. The
10 remaining quotient shall be multiplied by the per cent as set by
11 the director by rules pursuant to chapter 91, and the final
12 product shall be rounded down to determine the assistance
13 allowance; provided that:

- 14 (1) The department may increase or reduce the assistance
15 allowance as determined in this subsection for non-
16 exempt households for the purpose of providing work
17 incentives or services under part XI [~~of this~~
18 ~~chapter~~];
- 19 (2) No reduction shall be allowed that jeopardizes
20 eligibility for or receipt of federal funds;
- 21 (3) Reductions in the assistance allowance shall be
22 limited to no more than one per year; and



1 (4) No non-exempt household, which includes an adult who
2 has received sixty cumulative months of temporary
3 assistance to needy families with minor dependents,
4 shall be eligible for an assistance allowance, unless
5 authorized by federal regulations."

6 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall
7 reevaluate the standard of need during the interim period
8 following the 2006 regular session and report its findings and
9 recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to the
10 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the start of the
11 2007 regular session.

12 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007;
15 provided that section 3 shall take effect upon its approval.



SB475, SD2, HD1, CD1

Report Title:

Welfare Payments; Standard of Need

Description:

Increases standard of need from the 1993 federal poverty level to the 2006 poverty level. (CD1)

