
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR ASSET BUILDING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the
2 National Council on Disabilities, 44 per cent of temporary
3 assistance for needy families benefit recipients are individuals
4 with disabilities. Further, almost 20 per cent of temporary
5 assistance for needy families benefit recipients are the parents
6 of a child with a disability. There exists a critical need to
7 coordinate services for temporary assistance for needy families
8 benefit recipients to meet the needs of individuals with
9 disabilities along with the needs of those for whom learning
10 continues to be a lifelong struggle.

11 The legislature further finds that there is a need in
12 Hawaii to work toward establishing linkages and strengthening
13 existing ties between different services for teens with
14 disabilities. This should include services that young parents
15 can use while they are teenagers that would facilitate their
16 transition to adulthood, such as vocational rehabilitation
17 services. The legislature finds there is a need to use



1 temporary assistance for needy families funds to create
2 interagency linkages that are designed to help teens meet the
3 temporary assistance for needy families rules, such as
4 coordination between school systems and agencies that provide
5 disability services. Temporary assistance for needy families
6 funds can also help to provide support services. For example,
7 as explicitly described in federal temporary assistance for
8 needy families guidelines, a teen parent who receives
9 supplemental security income might be provided child care or
10 transportation through temporary assistance for needy families.

11 Some individuals with disabilities require program
12 modifications and support services to participate in and benefit
13 from education and training programs. Hawaii must work toward
14 assisting these individuals so that they can fulfill temporary
15 assistance for needy families work requirements. The need for
16 adequate screening and assessment is particularly acute for
17 applicants and recipients with disabilities, because it is
18 unlikely that disabilities will be identified and appropriate
19 program placements and support services will be provided without
20 them.

21 The State should provide access to the proper expertise and
22 serve as a resource center to assist individuals with



1 disabilities who are unable to navigate the existing benefits-
2 application processes or procedures for challenging sanctions
3 and to ensure that the skills and experience to further assist
4 those who are unable to participate in work requirements or who
5 need exemptions from work requirements are available.

6 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall
7 establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with fiscal year
8 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes
9 statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and the parents
10 of children with a disability by helping them develop skills in:

- 11 (1) Accessing existing community resources;
- 12 (2) Assessment and training on assistive technology;
- 13 (3) Career exploration; and
- 14 (4) Basic computer literacy.

15 The department of human services may enter into contracts
16 pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out
17 the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of temporary
19 assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
21 the department of human services to establish a three-year pilot
22 project, beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009, to conduct and



1 expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals
2 with disabilities and the parents of children with a disability
3 by helping them develop skills.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 human services for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Disabled Persons; Training; TANF Funds; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes three-year pilot project within the Department of Human Services to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and the parents of children with a disability. (HB2897 HD1)

