

PROPOSED

THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 424
S.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the recent changes
2 to the federal temporary assistance for needy families program
3 rules and subsequent first-to-work program changes, which limit
4 educational activities to two years of study leading to
5 vocational or technical degrees in order to meet federal work
6 requirements, grandfathers currently participating students and
7 allows them to finish their education. For example, first-to-
8 work participating students who are pursuing a baccalaureate
9 degree are transferred to the state-funded bridge-to-hope
10 program to continue their studies.

11 However, new federal temporary assistance for needy
12 families program first-to-work participating students are
13 restricted to the new two-year education activity option to
14 receive vocational or technical degrees. In other words, these
15 students may not continue to pursue a four-year baccalaureate
16 degree, and favorite areas of study such as pre-nursing will no



1 longer be available to them, without violating federal work
2 rules.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
4 bridge to hope program to enable heads of households receiving
5 financial assistance and participating in the first-to-work
6 programs to pursue educational activities beyond the new two-
7 year federal limit by transferring them to the state-funded
8 bridge to hope program.

9 SECTION 2. Section 346-68, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

11 "(a) There is created within the department a post-
12 secondary education benefits program, to be known as the bridge
13 to hope program, for heads of households receiving financial
14 assistance and participating in the [~~temporary assistance to~~
15 ~~needy families program.~~] first-to-work programs.

16 (b) To receive assistance under this program, the [~~single~~]
17 parent shall:

18 (1) Be enrolled as a student each term[+] in an approved
19 course of study; provided that the approved course of
20 study shall not be limited to vocational education;

21 (2) Maintain passing grades or better throughout the
22 course of study; and



1 (3) Meet work activity requirements as defined by the
2 department."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
6 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2008-2009, for the bridge to hope program to enable heads
8 of households receiving financial assistance and participating
9 in the first-to-work programs to pursue educational activities
10 beyond the new two-year federal limit by transferring them to
11 the state-funded bridge to hope program.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
17 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



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S.B. NO. 424
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Report Title:

Bridge to Hope; Educational Activities

Description:

Appropriates funds for the bridge to hope program to enable heads of households receiving financial assistance and participating in the first-to-work programs to pursue educational activities beyond the new two-year federal limit.
(SD1)

