
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.

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
17 longer be available to them, without violating federal work
18 rules.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
2 bridge to hope program to enable new federal temporary
3 assistance for needy families and new temporary assistance to
4 other needy families participants to pursue educational
5 activities beyond the new two-year federal limit by transferring
6 them to the state-funded bridge to hope program.

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

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

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

16 (1) Be enrolled as a student each term~~[-]~~ in an approved
17 course of study such as vocational education;

18 (2) Maintain passing grades or better throughout the
19 course of study; and

20 (3) Meet work activity requirements as defined by the
21 department~~[-]~~; provided that the work requirements
22 shall be consistent with academic success."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
4 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2008-2009, for the bridge to hope program to enable new
6 federal temporary assistance for needy families and new
7 temporary assistance to other needy families participants to
8 pursue educational activities beyond the new two-year federal
9 limit by transferring them to the state-funded bridge to hope
10 program.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
14 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Bridge to Hope; Educational Activities

Description:

Appropriates funds for the bridge to hope program to accommodate new federal temporary assistance for needy families and new temporary assistance to other needy families participants to enable them to pursue education activities beyond the new two-year federal limit. (SD1)

