

JAN 18 2008

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 according to the
2 National Council on Disabilities forty-four per cent of
3 temporary assistance for needy families recipients are
4 individuals with disabilities; furthermore almost twenty per
5 cent of temporary assistance for needy families parents are the
6 parents of a child with a disability. A critical need exists to
7 find services for temporary assistance for needy families
8 recipients that have the capacity to coordinate programs which
9 include the needs of people with disabilities along with the
10 needs of those for whom learning has been 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 which would facilitate their
16 transition to adulthood, such as vocational rehabilitation
17 services. The legislature finds there is a need to tap



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 provide service supports. For example, as
7 explicitly described in federal temporary assistance for needy
8 families guidance, a teen parent who receives supplemental
9 security income might be provided child care or transportation
10 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 may 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 as it is unlikely
18 that disabilities will be identified and appropriate program
19 placements and program supports will be provided without it.

20 The State should provide access to the expertise to serve
21 as a resource center to assist individuals with disabilities who
22 are unable to navigate the existing benefits application



1 processes or procedures for challenging sanctions and ensure the
2 skills and experience to further assist those who are unable to
3 participate in work requirements or who need exemptions from
4 work requirements are available.

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

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

14 The department of human services may enter into contracts
15 pursuant to chapter 103D to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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



1 with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in
2 developing skills.

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

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

6

INTRODUCED BY: Shiranne Chun Oakland



Report Title:

Disabled Persons; Life-skills Training; TANF Funds

Description:

Directs the Department of Human Services to establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills.

