

---

---

# 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 recipients of temporary assistance for needy families are  
4 individuals with disabilities. Further, almost twenty per cent  
5 of recipients of temporary assistance for needy families are  
6 parents of children with disabilities. These recipients  
7 critically need services addressing the needs of persons with  
8 disabilities along with the needs of those for whom learning has  
9 been a lifelong struggle.

10           The legislature further finds that there is a need in  
11 Hawaii to work toward establishing linkages and strengthening  
12 existing ties between different services for teenagers with  
13 disabilities. This should include assistance to teenage parents  
14 that would facilitate their transition to adulthood, such as  
15 vocational rehabilitation services. Temporary assistance for  
16 needy families funds are also needed to create interagency  
17 linkages designed to help teenagers meet program rules. This



1 includes coordination between school systems and agencies that  
2 provide disability services. This also includes the provision  
3 of other service supports. As an example, this would enable a  
4 teenage parent who receives supplemental security income to  
5 obtain child care or transportation through the temporary  
6 assistance for needy families program.

7 Some individuals with disabilities require program  
8 modifications and support services to participate in and benefit  
9 from education and training programs. These individuals require  
10 assistance to enable them to fulfill temporary assistance for  
11 needy families work requirements. The need for adequate  
12 screening and assessment is particularly acute for applicants  
13 and recipients with disabilities. Without this screening, it is  
14 unlikely that certain disabilities will be identified and  
15 appropriate program placements and program supports will be  
16 provided.

17 Finally, the State should provide access to assistance and  
18 expertise for individuals with disabilities who are unable to  
19 navigate the existing benefits application processes or  
20 procedures for challenging sanctions, are unable to fulfill work  
21 requirements, or need exemptions from work requirements.



1 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall  
2 establish a three-year pilot project beginning with fiscal year  
3 2008-2009 to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide  
4 to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children  
5 with disabilities in developing skills regarding:

- 6 (1) Linkages with existing community resources;
- 7 (2) Assessment and training on assistive technology;
- 8 (3) Career exploration; and
- 9 (4) Basic computer literacy.

10 The department of human services may enter into contracts  
11 pursuant to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out  
12 the purposes of this Act.

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

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

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



**Report Title:**

Disabled Persons; Asset Building; TANF Funds; Appropriation

**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 assist individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. (SD1)

