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# 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 expand the bridge to hope  
4 program to enable heads of households receiving financial  
5 assistance and participating in the first-to-work programs to  
6 pursue educational activities beyond the new two-year federal  
7 limit by transferring them to the state-funded bridge to hope  
8 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 on a full-time basis as defined by the  
20 post-secondary educational institution that the parent  
21 is attending; provided that the approved course of  
22 study shall not be limited to vocational education;



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

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

5           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Bridge to Hope; Educational Activities

**Description:**

Expands 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. (SD2)

