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## 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 existing federal law  
2 provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal  
3 temporary assistance for needy families block grant program to  
4 eligible states in the form of cash assistance and other benefits  
5 to qualified low-income families. The legislature further finds  
6 that a state of homelessness can occur for varied reasons,  
7 including being made homeless as a direct result of being the  
8 subject of domestic violence.

9           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
10 human services to grant to families homeless assistance, under  
11 specified circumstances, as an allowance for nonrecurring special  
12 needs when homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence  
13 by a spouse, partner, or roommate, to be verified by a third  
14 party governmental or private health or human services agency or  
15 by a sworn statement made by the victim.

16           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:



1           "§346- Temporary assistance for needy families;  
2 homeless assistance; verification; notification; not income;  
3 rules. (a) A family shall be eligible for temporary and  
4 permanent homeless assistance when homelessness is a direct  
5 result of domestic violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate.  
6 These circumstances shall be verified by a third-party  
7 governmental or private health or human services agency, except  
8 that domestic violence may also be verified by a sworn statement  
9 by the victim. Homeless assistance payments based on these  
10 specific circumstances may not be received more often than once  
11 in any twelve-month period. In addition, if the domestic  
12 violence is verified by a sworn statement by the victim, the  
13 homeless assistance payments shall be limited to two periods of  
14 not more than sixteen consecutive calendar days of temporary  
15 assistance and two payments of permanent assistance. A recipient  
16 of homeless assistance benefits who qualifies under this  
17 subsection for a second time in a twenty-four-month period shall  
18 be required to participate in a homelessness avoidance case plan  
19 as a condition of eligibility for homeless assistance benefits.  
20 The plan shall review whether services were offered to the  
21 recipient and consider what additional services would assist the  
22 recipient in leaving the domestic violence situation.



1        (b) A family is considered homeless, for the purpose of  
2 this section, when the family:

3        (1) Lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence;

4        (2) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised  
5 publicly or privately operated shelter designed to  
6 provide temporary living accommodations; or

7        (3) Is residing in a public or private place not designed  
8 for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping  
9 accommodation for human beings.

10       (c) The department shall notify all applicants and  
11 recipients of aid through the department's standardized  
12 application form that these benefits are available and shall  
13 provide an opportunity for recipients to apply for the funds  
14 quickly and efficiently.

15       (d) The amounts payable to recipients shall not constitute  
16 income to recipients of aid under this section.

17       (e) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with  
18 chapter 91 to ensure the uniform statewide application of this  
19 section."

20       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

TANF; Homeless Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims

**Description:**

Requires department of human services to grant to families homeless assistance, under specified circumstances, as an allowance for nonrecurring special needs when homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence. Allows verification by sworn statement of victim.

