
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 **PART I.**

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is
3 experiencing difficult economic times. In February 2008, a
4 respected local economist commented that "[a]ll indications now
5 are for slower growth in Hawaii's near future." Real impacts
6 were felt soon after this prediction. On March 31, 2008, after
7 sixty-one years of operation in Hawaii, Aloha Airlines announced
8 the discontinuation of its passenger service; on April 2, 2008,
9 ATA Airlines announced the discontinuation of all operations
10 after twenty-five years of operation; and on April 5, 2008,
11 Molokai Properties Limited (commonly known as Molokai Ranch),
12 with a history spanning one hundred forty-five years, announced
13 its closure.

14 On March 30, 2008, one of Hawaii's daily newspapers noted,
15 "Hawaii mortgage delinquencies ratcheted up last year and show
16 no indication of slowing this year as economic growth weakens,
17 inflation remains strong and home values flatten." The



1 department of business, economic development and tourism, in its
2 latest estimates, anticipates a twelve per cent decrease in
3 total visitor arrivals, as compared to April of last year.

4 Clearly, these are difficult economic times. Hawaii's
5 economy has slowed substantially, and the State's expenditure of
6 temporary assistance for needy family funds must not only
7 account for this economic slowdown, but maintain reserves in
8 anticipation of a continued financial slump.

9 The legislature finds that the best approach is to continue
10 supplying essential health, education, employment, and economic
11 assistance while preserving an adequate reserve of funds. While
12 maintaining cash reserves for future expenditures is imperative,
13 so too is the continued provision of necessary support programs.
14 Such programs will yield healthier families, more productive
15 employees, and, eventually, a stronger economy.

16 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that it is imperative to
17 continue providing monthly cash benefits to families for food,
18 clothing, shelter, and other essential items. Monthly cash
19 benefits are not only imperative for a family's survival, but
20 also act as a stimulus to the local economy when spent by
21 recipients at local retail outlets.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this part.

3 **PART IV.**

4 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that it is important for
5 a family's emotional and economic stability to maintain the
6 family unit. This can be achieved when families are self-
7 sufficient, stable, and educated.

8 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the federal
9 temporary assistance for needy families program funds the sum of
10 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2009-2010 for employment training programs other services
12 that enable families receiving benefits to remain intact.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 human services for the purposes of this part.

15 **PART V.**

16 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures]
John M. Pignone
Tom Brown
Mark Kashima
A.C. Koshida

Report Title:

TANF Funds; Allocation of Expenditures

Description:

Details how the legislature will spend TANF funds, emphasizing direct payments to families, employment training, teenage pregnancy prevention, and keeping families intact.

