

JAN 28 2009

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# 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 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the federal  
2 temporary assistance for needy families program funds the sum of  
3 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
4 year 2009-2010 for the provision of monthly cash benefits to  
5 eligible families.

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

8 **PART II.**

9 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that a state's economy  
10 depends upon its human capital. Having a self-sufficient,  
11 dependable, and strong workforce is imperative to a robust  
12 economy. Programs that train individuals for jobs, help with  
13 job-search activities, and encourage financial self-sufficiency  
14 result in a better-developed workforce and less strain on  
15 support services and benefit programs.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the federal  
17 temporary assistance for needy families program funds the sum of  
18 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2009-2010 for employment training programs other services  
20 that enable families receiving benefits to become self-  
21 sufficient.



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

3 **PART III.**

4 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
5 twelfth highest teenage pregnancy rate in the nation. Young  
6 women who become pregnant before the age of eighteen have a  
7 higher risk of poverty, dropping out of high school, and  
8 experiencing preterm births. The department of human services  
9 contracted with The Lewin Group to determine the effectiveness  
10 of teenage pregnancy education programs provided under temporary  
11 assistance to needy families grants. The report found a  
12 positive impact on program participants, and the State's general  
13 trend is a decrease in teenage pregnancy rates.

14 The legislature finds that it is necessary for the  
15 wellbeing of Hawaii's youth to educate them about the effects of  
16 teenage pregnancy and the importance of educated decision-making  
17 through programs funded by temporary assistance for needy  
18 families.

19 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the federal  
20 temporary assistance for needy families program funds the sum of  
21 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
22 year 2009-2010 for teenage pregnancy education programs.



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.

17 J. Ken Gier INTRODUCED BY: Shoanne Chun Oakland

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S.B. NO. 1666

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**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.

