
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:
4 "§383- Self-employment assistance; eligibility; amounts
5 payable; rules. (a) An individual identified under department
6 rules as likely to exhaust regular benefits before finding
7 employment may receive the self-employment assistance allowance
8 pursuant to this section in lieu of regular benefits. Self-
9 employment assistance allowance amounts shall be paid from the
10 fund.
11 (b) The weekly amount of the self-employment assistance
12 allowance payable to an individual shall be equal to the weekly
13 benefit amount under section 383-22. The sum of the self-
14 employment assistance allowance and the regular benefits paid
15 under this chapter with respect to any benefit year shall not
16 exceed the maximum benefit amount payable under section 383-24
17 with respect to that benefit year.



1 (c) The self-employment assistance allowance shall be
2 payable to an individual at the same intervals and on the same
3 terms and conditions as regular benefits; provided that:

4 (1) Any provision of this chapter regarding being
5 available for work, actively seeking work, or refusing
6 to accept suitable work shall not apply to the
7 individual;

8 (2) Any provision of this chapter reducing the amount of
9 benefits due to remuneration for services performed
10 during a period of employment shall not apply to
11 income earned from self-employment by the individual;

12 (3) An individual participating in self-employment
13 assistance activities shall be considered to be
14 unemployed; and

15 (4) An individual who fails to participate in self-
16 employment assistance activities or who fails actively
17 to engage on a full-time basis in establishing a
18 business and becoming self-employed shall be
19 ineligible to receive the self-employment assistance
20 allowance for each week in which the failure occurs.

21 (d) The number of individuals receiving the self-
22 employment assistance allowance at any time shall not exceed



1 five per cent of the number of individuals receiving regular
2 benefits.

3 (e) The self-employment assistance allowance shall be
4 charged to employers in the manner provided in this chapter for
5 the charging of regular benefits.

6 (f) The director shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
7 to implement this section; provided that in adopting rules, the
8 director, insofar as practicable, shall comply with rules and
9 policies of the United States Department of Labor.

10 (g) This section shall be operative upon the enactment of
11 federal law authorizing this section or upon the date of any
12 required plan adopted by the United States Department of Labor,
13 whichever date is later, and shall terminate at the end of the
14 week preceding the date when federal law no longer authorizes
15 this section, unless that date is on a Saturday, in which case
16 the authority terminates on that date.

17 (h) For the purposes of this section:

18 "Self-employment assistance activities" means activities
19 approved by the director and designed to enable participating
20 individuals to establish a business and become self-employed.

21 "Self-employment assistance activities" includes entrepreneurial
22 training, business counseling, and technical assistance.



1 "Self-employment assistance allowance" means an amount
 2 payable to an individual participating in self-employment
 3 assistance activities in accordance with this section."

4 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 2024

Report Title:

Employment Security; Unemployment; Self-Employment Assistance

Description:

Provides for the payment of self-employment assistance benefits in lieu of regular unemployment benefits under conditions allowing recipients to focus on receiving training and assistance to become self-employed.

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