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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The State's general assistance program provides  
2 cash benefits for food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials  
3 to adults aged eighteen through sixty-four, without minor  
4 dependents, who are temporarily disabled and who do not qualify  
5 for Social Security.

6           General assistance is not an entitlement program. The  
7 general assistance program is funded by a block-grant  
8 appropriated by the legislature each year. To stay within the  
9 block-grant appropriation, adjustments to the monthly benefit  
10 amount may be made throughout the year based on the number of  
11 individuals who are participating in the program.

12           The legislature finds that the State's pleasant warm  
13 weather and year-round climate, coupled with its generous health  
14 care and general assistance benefits, draw an increasing number  
15 of homeless and other indigent individuals from out-of-state to  
16 Hawaii. The downturn in Hawaii's economy, coupled with finite  
17 state resources and increased demands on state public services



1 by Hawaii residents and out-of-state individuals, have strained  
2 the amount of public services to a growing homeless and indigent  
3 population.

4 The legislature also finds that Garza County, Texas has  
5 established reasonable general eligibility requirements for  
6 public assistance applicants. To apply for public assistance,  
7 Garza County residents must provide proof that they have resided  
8 in the State of Texas continuously for the preceding six months  
9 and provide proof that they have resided in the County of Garza  
10 for the last thirty days of that time period.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require that applicants for  
12 general assistance reside in the State for at least six  
13 consecutive months immediately preceding their application for  
14 general assistance.

15 SECTION 2. Section 346-71, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17 "(a) The department of human services is authorized to  
18 administer and provide public assistance to eligible persons who  
19 are disabled, who are not otherwise provided for under this  
20 chapter, and who are unable to provide sufficient support for  
21 themselves or those dependent upon them; provided that such  
22 persons:



- 1           (1) Have first been determined ineligible for a comparable  
2                   federally funded financial assistance program;
- 3           (2) Are bona fide residents of this State; [~~and~~]
- 4           (3) Have furnished to the department a social security  
5                   account number for each member of the assistance unit  
6                   or verification that an application was made with the  
7                   Social Security Administration for a social security  
8                   account number for each member of the assistance  
9                   unit[~~-~~]; and
- 10          (4) Have resided in the State for a period of at least six  
11                   consecutive months immediately preceding their  
12                   application for assistance under this part.

13           Persons who meet the categorical criteria for eligibility,  
14 but fail to satisfy income and resource criteria adopted by the  
15 department shall not be eligible for general assistance to  
16 household without minor dependents. The failure of any adult  
17 member of the assistance unit to comply with the requirements or  
18 conditions of general assistance to households without minor  
19 dependents shall exclude the entire assistance unit from  
20 receiving financial assistance. However, when the adult member  
21 is disqualified for not meeting the work requirement, the  
22 assistance unit shall not be disqualified if the assistance unit



1 was formed after the failure to meet the work requirement  
2 occurred. "Assistance unit" as the term is used in this section  
3 means persons whose needs, income, and assets are considered in  
4 the financial assistance payment and their dependents.

5 For purposes of determining whether persons seeking  
6 assistance are bona fide residents of this State, the department  
7 of human services shall consider, but is not limited to  
8 considering, the following factors:

- 9 (1) Enrollment and receipt of welfare benefits from  
10 another jurisdiction;
- 11 (2) Physical presence in the State;
- 12 (3) Maintenance of a place of residence in the State;
- 13 (4) The availability of furnishings and household and  
14 personal effects sufficient to lead a reasonable  
15 person to conclude that the place of residence is more  
16 than a public accommodation;
- 17 (5) Qualification as to residence for purposes of voting  
18 in the State;
- 19 (6) Change in vehicle operation license;
- 20 (7) Vehicle registration;
- 21 (8) Enrollment of children in local schools; and



1 (9) Bank accounts in this State or any other  
2 jurisdiction."

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

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

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**Report Title:**

General Assistance; Six-Month Residency Requirement

**Description:**

Requires that applicants for general assistance reside in the State for a period of at least six consecutive months immediately preceding their application for general assistance.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

