
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 homelessness can occur in a variety of circumstances,
7 including the direct result of being the victim of domestic
8 violence.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
10 human services to provide families with homeless assistance
11 payments when homelessness is a direct result of a verified
12 incident of domestic violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate.

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

16 "§346- Temporary assistance for needy families; homeless
17 assistance; verification; notification; not income; rules. (a)

18 A family shall be eligible for temporary and permanent homeless



1 assistance when homelessness is a direct result of domestic
2 violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate. These circumstances
3 shall be verified by a third-party governmental or private health
4 or human services agency, except that domestic violence may also
5 be verified by a sworn statement by the victim. Homeless
6 assistance payments pursuant to this section shall not be issued
7 more than once in any twelve-month period. In addition, if the
8 domestic violence is verified by a sworn statement by the victim,
9 the homeless assistance payments shall be limited to two periods
10 of not more than sixteen consecutive calendar days of temporary
11 assistance and two payments of permanent assistance. A former
12 recipient of homeless assistance benefits who qualifies under
13 this subsection for a second time in a twenty-four-month period
14 shall be required to participate in a homelessness avoidance
15 case plan as a condition of eligibility for homeless assistance
16 benefits. The case plan shall review what services were offered
17 to the recipient and consider what additional services would
18 assist the recipient avoiding future domestic violence.

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

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



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

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

7 (c) Through the department's standardized application form,
8 the department shall notify all applicants and recipients of
9 homeless assistance that other benefits are available and shall
10 provide an opportunity for homeless assistance recipients to
11 apply for other relevant benefits or funds quickly and
12 efficiently.

13 (d) The homeless assistance amounts payable to recipients
14 shall not constitute income to recipients under this section.

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

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

John M. ...
Tou Brown
Karen ...
...



H.B. NO. 732

Report Title:

TANF; Homeless Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims

Description:

Requires department of human services to provide families with homeless assistance when homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence.

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