
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Public assistance programs limit eligibility to
2 those who have few or no assets. Unfortunately, such asset
3 limits provide an incentive for individuals to divest themselves
4 of assets and a disincentive to accumulate assets. This is
5 problematic, as families need assets to avoid and escape poverty
6 and become self-sufficient.

7 The Corporation for Enterprise Development is a national
8 nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to expanding
9 economic opportunity for low-income families and communities.
10 The Corporation for Enterprise Development recommends that
11 states, among other things, completely eliminate asset limits
12 for their temporary assistance for needy families programs or
13 raise the asset limit for those programs to \$15,000. As of
14 today, one state has raised its asset limit to \$15,000, and five
15 states have completely eliminated their asset limits.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
17 human services to conduct a study to evaluate current asset
18 limits for public assistance programs, including the temporary



1 assistance for needy families program, and assess the effects of
2 changing the asset limits on those programs.

3 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall conduct
4 a study on asset limits for public assistance programs that
5 shall include:

- 6 (1) An evaluation of current asset limits;
- 7 (2) Information on promising activities, policies, and
8 trends; and
- 9 (3) The effects of changing the asset limits on the
10 supplemental nutritional assistance program, temporary
11 assistance for needy families program, temporary
12 assistance for other needy families program, and Med-
13 QUEST program.

14 The department shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
16 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2013.

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



Report Title:

Human Services; TANF Program; TAONF Program; Med-QUEST; Office of Hawaiian Affairs Package

Description:

Requires the department of human services to conduct a study on asset limits for public assistance programs. Requires a report to the legislature. (SD1)

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