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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that current State  
2 welfare policy often penalizes welfare recipients who seek job  
3 promotions or higher paying career opportunities. This  
4 increased income often causes welfare recipients to lose their  
5 beneficiary status, thus perpetuating financial hardship. The  
6 legislature further finds there is a need to revise the welfare  
7 payment system to allow recipients to advance in their careers  
8 without necessarily losing their beneficiary status.

9           The purpose of this Act is to request the financial  
10 assistance advisory council to assist the department of human  
11 services in proposing recommendations to restructure the welfare  
12 payment system and report any findings to the legislature.

13           SECTION 2. (a) Beginning no later than January 1, 2014,  
14 the financial assistance advisory council shall assist the  
15 department of human services in proposing recommendations to  
16 restructure the welfare payment system. The financial  
17 assistance advisory council shall:

18           (1) Examine the current welfare payment structure;



- 1           (2) Revise the welfare payment structure to incentivize  
2           qualifying recipients to advance in their careers or  
3           seek high paying jobs without necessarily causing  
4           recipients to lose their welfare beneficiary status;
- 5           (3) Create a sliding scale payment system to incrementally  
6           reduce welfare payments to recipients as they advance  
7           in their careers or obtain higher paying jobs; and
- 8           (4) Explore other possible methods to incentivize welfare  
9           recipients to seek financial self-sufficiency.
- 10          (b) The financial assistance advisory council shall report  
11          to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
12          convening of the 2014 regular session on its findings and  
13          recommendations, including any recommendations for an  
14          implementation plan or legislation.

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

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**Report Title:**

Human Services; Welfare; Financial Assistance Advisory Council

**Description:**

Requests the financial assistance advisory council to assist the department of human services in proposing recommendations to restructure the welfare payment system and report any findings to the legislature. (SD1)

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

