
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014,
5 appropriated a certain designated sum to the department of human
6 services to provide funds for the general assistance program
7 under the benefit, employment and support services division for
8 the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30,
9 2015.

10 A critical funding emergency exists. Pursuant to section
11 346-53(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the general assistance
12 program is a block grant program; the maximum allowance a
13 general assistance recipient may receive is determined by
14 dividing the amount of the appropriation received by the total
15 number of general assistance recipients. The general assistance
16 program will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the
17 current fiscal year and the department will be unable to



1 maintain the current maximum \$348 per month general assistance
 2 payment benefit to approximately 5,752 (the average General
 3 Assistance caseload for July - November 2014) disabled
 4 recipients. The current assistance grant for disabled
 5 individuals is based on 37.1 per cent of the 2006 federal
 6 poverty level. This amount is barely enough to cover living
 7 expenses for individuals on a fixed income who have no other
 8 viable means of support. Stopping the grant payment or reducing
 9 the amount of the grant payment for these individuals poses a
 10 real threat to the individuals' health and safety. To prevent
 11 the reduction of general assistance payments in the fourth
 12 quarter of fiscal year 2014-2015, additional funds are urgently
 13 needed.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be used
 17 for general assistance payments.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 19 human services for the purposes of this Act.

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



Report Title:

General Support for General Assistance Payments (HMS 204);
Emergency Appropriation

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2014-2015 to address the budget shortfall for the general support for the General Assistance Program (HMS 204) in the Department of Human Services. (HB938 HD1)

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