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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHORE SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 346-64.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[+]§346-64.5[+] **Eligibility for chore services.** (a) An  
4 applicant for chore services shall be eligible when the  
5 applicant meets program requirements for chore services and  
6 income eligibility standards as established by the department of  
7 human services. Income eligibility standards shall include  
8 individuals who have been found eligible for medical assistance  
9 under the department's medicaid program.

10 (b) Program requirements to determine an applicant's  
11 eligibility for chore services pursuant to subsection (a) shall  
12 include an assessment of whether the applicant has a family  
13 member who is capable of providing chore services and the types  
14 and extent of chore services the family member is capable of  
15 providing for the applicant. The assessment shall include a  
16 determination of whether the family member has:



- 1        (1) The physical and mental ability to perform each type
- 2        of chore service necessary for the applicant, which
- 3        shall be certified by a physician licensed pursuant to
- 4        chapter 453 who has examined the family member; and
- 5        (2) Sufficient time to perform necessary chore services
- 6        for the applicant, which shall be determined by an
- 7        independent third party who is not an employee or
- 8        agent of an insurance company or the department.

9        [~~(b)~~] (c) For the purposes of this section[, "chore"]:  
 10        "Chore services" means essential housecleaning and related  
 11 activities such as marketing, cooking, and cleaning.

12        "Family member" means an applicant's spouse, child,  
 13 grandchild, parent, grandparent, or any individual related by  
 14 blood, marriage, adoption, or legal guardianship, or as  
 15 reciprocal beneficiaries, who resides in the same household of  
 16 the applicant."

17        SECTION 2. (a) To improve access for disabled persons  
 18 seeking chore services, the department of human services shall:

- 19        (1) Improve and streamline the application and approval
- 20        process for "DHS form 1147" by eliminating the rating
- 21        and ranking of a disabled applicant's disability for



- 1 purposes of qualifying to receive chore services.  
2 Application approval shall not consider the quantity  
3 of services needed or the severity of the applicant's  
4 disability to determine priority of an individual's  
5 application;
- 6 (2) Pursue all available federal funding sources to  
7 maximize state program availability and reimbursement  
8 for chore services;
- 9 (3) Consider establishment of a dependent care loan  
10 program that would loan funds to qualified individuals  
11 to pay for chore service expenses, who could then  
12 claim a tax credit that, once refunded, would enable  
13 them to repay the department for the dependent care  
14 loan;
- 15 (4) Expand the first to work program to include training  
16 and assistance to help unemployed individuals sign up  
17 to become freelance chore services workers, which  
18 shall include:
- 19 (A) Assisting in self-employment processes for  
20 applicants to become simple sole proprietors to  
21 serve as chore service workers; and



1 (B) Working with the department of labor and  
2 industrial relations to publish a list of  
3 freelance chore service workers' contact  
4 information, with ratings submitted by chore  
5 service clients, to be posted on the department  
6 of labor and industrial relations' website and  
7 the department of human services' MedQUEST  
8 website.

9 (b) The department of human services shall submit a report  
10 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
11 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
12 to the convening of the regular session of 2025, concerning the  
13 status of items specified in subsection (a).

14 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
16 begun before its effective date.

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

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
20 2050; provided that section 1 of this Act shall take effect upon  
21 approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



**Report Title:**

DHS; Chore Services; Assessment; Program Requirements; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human Services' program requirements for chore services to include an assessment of whether the applicant has a family member who is available and capable of providing necessary chore services for the applicant. Requires the Department of Human Services to improve access for disabled persons seeking chore services by taking certain actions and submitting a report to the Legislature. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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

