

JAN 15 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to implement the  
2 recommendations of the Hawaii low-income home energy assistance  
3 program working group.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
6 designated and to read as follows:

7           "§269-           Hawaii low-income home energy assistance program  
8 surcharge. The public utilities commission, by order or rule,  
9 shall require that not more than                   per cent of the moneys  
10 collected by Hawaii's electric utilities from their ratepayers  
11 through a demand-side management surcharge be transferred to the  
12 commission for deposit into the Hawaii low-income home energy  
13 assistance program special fund established pursuant to section  
14 346-B."

15           SECTION 3. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:



1           "§346-A Hawaii low-income home energy assistance program;  
2 established. (a) There is established the Hawaii low-income  
3 home energy assistance program. Subject to available funds, the  
4 program shall assist eligible low-income households with their  
5 energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance,  
6 weatherization, and energy-related home repairs.

7           (b) Any current beneficiary of the supplemental nutrition  
8 assistance program shall qualify for the program; provided that  
9 the department may expand qualifications for the program based  
10 upon available funds.

11           (c) The department shall require recipients of funds from  
12 the program to participate in an energy audit of their home  
13 within two years of the first assistance received under the  
14 program.

15           (d) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to  
16 chapter 91 for purposes of this section, including:

17           (1) Determining the levels of assistance based upon income  
18 and household size; and

19           (2) Required energy efficiency improvements that a  
20 recipient of funds shall complete to qualify for  
21 further participation in the program.



1           §346-B Hawaii low-income home energy assistance program  
 2 special fund. (a) There is established the Hawaii low-income  
 3 home energy assistance program special fund into which shall be  
 4 deposited:

- 5           (1) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund;
- 6           (2) Moneys assessed and deposited into the special fund  
 7           pursuant to section 269-     ;
- 8           (3) All contributions from public or private partners;
- 9           (4) All interest earned on or accrued to moneys deposited  
 10           in the special fund; and
- 11           (5) Any other moneys made available to the special fund  
 12           from other sources.

13           (b) Moneys in the fund shall be expended by the department  
 14 for the Hawaii low-income home energy assistance program."

15           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
 18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 19 2026-2027 for deposit into the Hawaii low-income home energy  
 20 assistance program special fund.

1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
2 low-income home energy assistance program special fund the sum  
3 of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
4 year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Hawaii low-income  
6 home energy assistance program.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

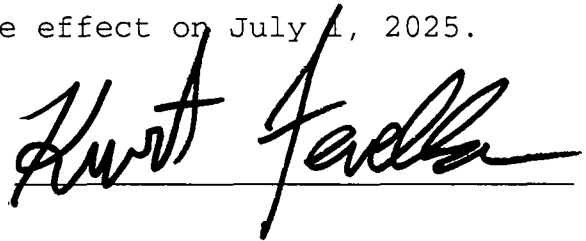
9 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by  
10 section 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
11 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
12 the new sections in this Act.

13 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 191

**Report Title:**

Energy Bill Assistance; DHS; Hawaii Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program; PUC; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii low-income home energy assistance program within the Department of Human Services to assist low-income households in paying their energy bills. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to assess ratepayers a percentage fee to fund the program. Appropriates moneys.

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

