

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§346- General assistance to households upon the
5 governor's declaration of a state of emergency. (a) Upon
6 issuance of a proclamation by the governor declaring a state of
7 emergency in the State under section 127A-14, the department may
8 administer and provide public assistance during the emergency
9 period to persons who are not otherwise provided for under this
10 chapter and who are unable to provide sufficient support for
11 themselves or those dependent upon them; provided that the
12 persons:

13 (1) Are bona fide residents of this State, as determined
14 by the residency criteria established in
15 section 346-71(a);

16 (2) Have furnished to the department for each member of
17 the persons' assistance unit a social security account



1 number or verification that an application was made
2 with the Social Security Administration for a social
3 security account number for each member of the
4 assistance unit; and

5 (3) Satisfy the income criteria adopted by the department
6 and other conditions set forth in this section.

7 (b) A person between eighteen and sixty-five years of age
8 shall be eligible for general assistance under this section if
9 the person is:

10 (1) Determined to be needy in accordance with standards
11 established by this chapter and the rules adopted
12 under subsection (f);

13 (2) Unable to meet the income and financial resources
14 eligibility criteria for the federal supplemental
15 security income program or the program's successor;
16 and

17 (3) Unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity
18 because of the governor-declared state of emergency.

19 (c) The allowance for general assistance under this
20 section shall not exceed the monthly federal supplemental
21 security income benefit payment for the State.



1 (d) Applicants and recipients shall satisfy all applicable
2 provisions of this section. Recipients disqualified for failure
3 to comply with any of the requirements under this section shall
4 be excluded from general assistance under this section for a
5 period not to exceed twelve months.

6 (e) Failure of any adult member of the assistance unit to
7 comply with the requirements or conditions of general assistance
8 under this section shall disqualify the entire assistance unit
9 from receiving financial assistance under this section; provided
10 that the assistance unit shall not be disqualified if the adult
11 member is disqualified for failing to meet the work requirement
12 and the assistance unit was formed after the failure had
13 occurred.

14 (f) Within the limitations of this section, the department
15 shall, by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, determine:

16 (1) The allowance for general assistance under this
17 section based on the total amount available from
18 applicable federal funds;

19 (2) A method for determining assistance amounts; and

20 (3) Other necessary provisions to implement, administer,
21 and provide general assistance under this section.



1 (g) For the purposes of this section:

2 "Assistance unit" means a person or group of persons whose
3 needs and income are considered in determining the payment of
4 financial assistance under this section. "Assistance unit"
5 includes the person or persons' dependents.

6 "Substantial gainful activity" means work for which the
7 person earns at minimum the amount set forth in the Social
8 Security Administration's Substantial Gainful Activity Earnings
9 Guideline."

10 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

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

12

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 58

Report Title:

DHS; General Assistance; State of Emergency; Emergency
Supplementary Income; Eligibility

Description:

Allows the Department of Human Services to administer and provide public assistance to eligible residents of the State during a Governor-Declared State of Emergency.

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

