

ACT 234

S.B. NO. 970

A Bill for an Act Relating to General Assistance.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 346-71, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) The department of human services shall administer and provide public assistance to eligible persons who are disabled, or are at least fifty-five years of age, or have dependent children in the home not otherwise provided for under this chapter, and who are unable to provide sufficient support for themselves or those dependent upon them; provided that such persons have first been determined ineligible for a comparable federally funded financial assistance program [and],¹ are bona fide residents of this State¹, and have furnished to the department a social security account number for each member of the assistance unit or verification that an application was made with the Social Security Administration for a social security account number for each member of the assistance unit. In family groups in which there are children, income and resources of both parents, natural or adoptive, shall be considered available for each other and the support of their children. Persons who meet the categorical criteria for eligibility, but fail to satisfy income and resource criteria adopted by the department for eligibility under the comparable federally funded financial assistance program shall not be eligible for general assistance. The failure of any adult member of the assistance unit to comply with the requirements or conditions of general assistance shall exclude the entire assistance unit from receiving financial assistance. However, when the adult member is disqualified for not meeting the work requirement, the assistance unit shall not be disqualified if the assistance unit was formed after the failure to meet the work requirement occurred. “Assistance unit” as the term is used herein means persons

whose needs, income, and assets are considered in the financial assistance payment and their dependents.

For purposes of determining whether persons seeking assistance are bona fide residents of this State, the department of human services shall consider, but is not limited to considering, the following factors: enrollment and receipt of welfare benefits from another jurisdiction; physical presence in the State; maintenance of a place of residence in the State; the availability of furnishings and household and personal effects sufficient to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the place of residence is more than a public accommodation; qualification as to residence for purposes of voting in the State; change in vehicle operation license; vehicle registration; enrollment of children in local schools; bank accounts in this State or any other jurisdiction."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved June 8, 1989.)