

A Bill for an Act Relating to Unclaimed Financial Assistance Benefits.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to broaden the scope of the financial assistance benefits which are recoverable and to have them revert back to the program's appropriation from which the funds were expended, and to allow the department to offset any overpayments that are still owed by the household prior to the reversion of the funds back to the program's appropriation.

SECTION 2. Section 346-39.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“~~[[§346-39.5]] Unclaimed financial assistance balances in electronic [benefits] benefit transfer accounts.~~ If there is a balance of financial assistance benefits in an electronic [benefits] benefit transfer account, that balance shall revert back to the [State] program's appropriation from which the funds were expended upon the death of [the] a client who has no surviving family member receiving assistance in the same financial assistance case or upon abandonment of the financial assistance account. Prior to the reversion to the program's appropriation from which the funds were expended, the department may use the balance of the household's electronic benefit transfer account to offset any outstanding overpayments still owed by the household.

For purposes of this section, financial assistance benefits refer to[:

- (1) Temporary assistance to families with minor dependents;
- (2) General assistance to households without minor dependents; or
- (3) Aid to the aged, blind, and disabled program.]

cash payments authorized by the department to be issued through the electronic benefit transfer system. A financial assistance account shall be considered abandoned when there is no debit transaction to the account for a period of ninety consecutive calendar days [after the effective date of closure of the financial assistance case].”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved July 2, 1999.)