

ACT 128

H.B. NO. 2204

A Bill for an Act Relating to Human Services.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that current state welfare policy often penalizes welfare recipients who seek job promotions or higher paying career opportunities. Receiving increased income often causes welfare recipients to lose their beneficiary status, thus perpetuating financial hardship. The legislature fur-

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ther finds there is a need to revise the welfare payment system to allow recipients to advance in their careers without necessarily losing their beneficiary status.

The purpose of this Act is to reestablish the exit and retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce.

SECTION 2. The department of human services shall reestablish the exit and retention bonus program. The program shall:

- (1) Be available to recipients who voluntarily terminate their welfare benefits within a twenty-four month period and remain out of the welfare system;
- (2) Provide bonuses available after three, six, twelve, and twenty-four months, with bonus amounts increasing for more hours of employment; and
- (3) Provide a maximum bonus amount over a period of twenty-four months.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to reestablish the exit and retention bonus program.

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

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Approved July 5, 2018.)