
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the self-sufficiency
2 standard is the actual amount needed to afford minimum basic
3 needs such as food, housing, and healthcare. The legislature
4 also finds that the self-sufficiency standard is a more
5 realistic guide for evaluating programs, designing new policies,
6 and setting benchmarks for measuring economic success for the
7 State of Hawaii.

8 In 2003, the commission on the status of women funded a
9 report, *The Self-Sufficiency Report for Hawaii*, which provided
10 an in-depth study of the actual cost to live in Hawaii in nine
11 communities throughout the State. The self-sufficiency
12 standards in this study ranged from double to triple the federal
13 poverty guidelines.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a self-sufficiency
15 standard, to be updated annually, to be used to determine the
16 level of public assistance.



1 SECTION 2. Section 201-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§201-3 Specific research and promotional functions of the**
4 **department.** Without prejudice to its general functions and
5 duties the department of business, economic development, and
6 tourism shall have specific functions in the following areas:

7 (1) Industrial development. The department shall
8 determine through technical and economic surveys the
9 profit potential of new or expanded industrial
10 undertakings; develop through research projects and
11 other means new and improved industrial products and
12 processes; promote studies and surveys to determine
13 consumer preference as to design and quality and to
14 determine the best methods of packaging, transporting,
15 and marketing the State's industrial products;
16 disseminate information to assist the present
17 industries of the State, to attract new industries to
18 the State, and to encourage capital investment in
19 present and new industries in the State; assist
20 associations of producers and distributors of
21 industrial products to introduce [~~such~~] these products
22 to consumers; and make [~~such~~] grants or contracts as



1 may be necessary or advisable to accomplish the
2 foregoing;

3 (2) Land development. The department shall encourage the
4 most productive use of all land in the State in
5 accordance with a general plan developed by the
6 department; encourage the improvement of land tenure
7 practices on leased private lands; promote an
8 informational program directed to landowners,
9 producers of agricultural and industrial commodities,
10 and the general public regarding the most efficient
11 and most productive use of the lands in the State; and
12 make [such] grants or contracts as may be necessary or
13 advisable to accomplish the foregoing;

14 (3) Credit development. The department shall conduct a
15 continuing study of agricultural and industrial credit
16 needs; encourage the development of additional private
17 and public credit sources for agricultural and
18 industrial enterprises; promote an informational
19 program to acquaint financial institutions with
20 agricultural and industrial credit needs and the
21 potential for agricultural and industrial expansion,
22 and inform producers of agricultural and industrial



1 products as to the manner in which to qualify for
2 loans; and make [~~such~~] grants or contracts as may be
3 necessary or advisable to accomplish the foregoing;

4 (4) Promotion. The department shall disseminate
5 information developed for or by the department
6 pertaining to economic development to assist present
7 industry in the State, attract new industry and
8 investments to the State, and assist new and emerging
9 industry with good growth potential or prospects in
10 jobs, exports, and new products. The industrial and
11 economic promotional activities of the department may
12 include the use of literature, advertising,
13 demonstrations, displays, market testing, lectures,
14 travel, motion picture and slide films, and [~~such~~]
15 other promotional and publicity devices as may be
16 appropriate; [~~and~~]

17 (5) Tourism research and statistics. The department shall
18 maintain a program of research and statistics for the
19 purpose of:

20 (A) Measuring and analyzing tourism trends;



- 1 (B) Providing information and research to assist in
2 the development and implementation of state
3 tourism policy;
- 4 (C) Encouraging and arranging for the conduct of
5 tourism research and information development
6 through voluntary means or through contractual
7 services with qualified agencies, firms, or
8 persons; and
- 9 (D) Providing tourism information to policy makers,
10 the public, and the visitor industry. This
11 includes:
 - 12 (i) Collecting and publishing visitor-related
13 data including visitor arrivals, visitor
14 characteristics and expenditures;
 - 15 (ii) Collecting and publishing hotel-related
16 statistics including the number of units
17 available, occupancy rates, and room rates;
 - 18 (iii) Collecting and publishing airline-related
19 data including seat capacity and number of
20 flights;



- 1 (iv) Collecting information and conducting
- 2 analyses of the economic, social, and
- 3 physical impacts of tourism on the State;
- 4 (v) Conducting periodic studies of the impact of
- 5 ongoing marketing programs of the Hawaii
- 6 tourism authority on Hawaii's tourism
- 7 industry, employment in Hawaii, state taxes,
- 8 and the State's lesser known and
- 9 underutilized destinations; and
- 10 (vi) Cooperate with the Hawaii tourism authority
- 11 and provide it with the above information in
- 12 a timely manner[-]; and

13 (6) Self-sufficiency standard. The department shall
14 establish annually the self-sufficiency standard that
15 is the absolute minimum amount required to be expended
16 in Hawaii on the costs of housing, food, childcare,
17 transportation, healthcare, all taxes, and other
18 expenses such as clothing, shoes, utilities, and
19 household items. The self-sufficiency standard shall
20 be utilized by the department of human services in
21 determining the assistance allowance under section
22 346-53, and may otherwise be used as an economic



1 barometer of the State's economic development and
2 related issues.

3 The department shall be the central agency to coordinate
4 film permit activities in the State."

5 SECTION 3. Section 346-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending the definition of "assistance allowance" to
7 read as follows:

8 "Assistance allowance" means a single monthly public
9 assistance grant, including funds received from the federal
10 government, expressed in a dollar amount per recipient or per
11 recipient family to be provided a recipient or recipient family
12 for all usual and absolute minimum recurring living and shelter
13 expenses, including rent or mortgage payment and utilities~~[, and~~
14 ~~excluding medical care]~~."

15 SECTION 4. Section 346-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§346-14 Duties generally.** Except as otherwise provided
18 by law, the department of human services shall:

- 19 (1) Establish and administer programs and standards, and
20 adopt rules as deemed necessary for all public
21 assistance programs;



- 1 (2) Establish, extend, and strengthen services for the
2 protection and care of abused or neglected children
3 and children in danger of becoming delinquent to make
4 paramount the safety and health of children who have
5 been harmed or are in life circumstances that threaten
6 harm;
- 7 (3) Establish and administer programs, and adopt rules as
8 deemed necessary, for the prevention of domestic and
9 sexual violence and the protection and treatment of
10 victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- 11 (4) Assist in preventing family breakdown;
- 12 (5) Place, or cooperate in placing, abused or neglected
13 children in suitable private homes or institutions and
14 place, or cooperate in placing, children in suitable
15 adoptive homes;
- 16 (6) Have authority to establish, maintain, and operate
17 receiving homes for the temporary care and custody of
18 abused or neglected children until suitable plans are
19 made for their care; and accept from the police and
20 other agencies, for temporary care and custody, any
21 abused or neglected child until satisfactory plans are
22 made for the child;



- 1 (7) Administer the medical assistance programs for
2 eligible public welfare and other medically needy
3 individuals by establishing standards, eligibility,
4 and health care participation rules, payment
5 methodologies, reimbursement allowances, systems to
6 monitor recipient and provider compliance, and
7 assuring compliance with federal requirements to
8 maximize federal financial participation;
- 9 (8) Cooperate with the federal government in carrying out
10 the purposes of the Social Security Act and in other
11 matters of mutual concern pertaining to public
12 welfare, public assistance, and child welfare
13 services, including the making of reports, the
14 adoption of methods of administration, and the making
15 of rules as are found by the federal government, or
16 any properly constituted authority thereunder, to be
17 necessary or desirable for the efficient operation of
18 the plans for public welfare, assistance, and child
19 welfare services or as may be necessary or desirable
20 for the receipt of financial assistance from the
21 federal government;



- 1 (9) Carry on research and compile statistics relative to
2 public and private welfare activities throughout the
3 State, including those dealing with dependence,
4 defectiveness, delinquency, self-sufficiency standard,
5 and related problems;
- 6 (10) Develop plans in cooperation with other public and
7 private agencies for the prevention and treatment of
8 conditions giving rise to public welfare problems;
- 9 (11) Adopt rules governing the procedure in hearings,
10 investigations, recording, registration, determination
11 of allowances, and accounting and conduct other
12 activities as may be necessary or proper to carry out
13 this chapter;
- 14 (12) Supervise or administer any other activities
15 authorized or required by this chapter, including the
16 development of the staff of the department through in-
17 service training and educational leave to attend
18 schools and other appropriate measures, and any other
19 activities placed under the jurisdiction of the
20 department by any other law;
- 21 (13) Make, prescribe, and enforce policies and rules
22 governing the activities provided for in section



1 346-31 it deems advisable, including the allocation of
2 moneys available for assistance to persons assigned to
3 work projects among the several counties or to
4 particular projects where the apportionment has not
5 been made pursuant to other provisions of law, if any,
6 governing expenditures of the funds;

7 (14) Determine the appropriate level for the Hawaii
8 security net, by developing a tracking and monitoring
9 system to determine what segments of the population
10 are not able to afford the basic necessities of life,
11 and advise the legislature annually regarding the
12 resources required to maintain the security net at the
13 appropriate level;

14 (15) Subject to the appropriation of state funds and
15 availability of federal matching assistance, expand
16 optional health care to low-income persons as follows:

17 (A) Pregnant women and infants under one year of age
18 living in families with incomes up to one hundred
19 eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty level
20 and without any asset restrictions;

21 (B) Children under six years of age living in
22 families with incomes up to one hundred thirty-



1 three per cent of the federal poverty level and
2 without any asset restrictions;

3 (C) Older children to the extent permitted under
4 optional federal medicaid rules;

5 (D) Elder persons;

6 (E) Aliens;

7 (F) The homeless; and

8 (G) Other handicapped and medically needy persons;
9 and

10 (16) Subject to the appropriation of state funds and
11 availability of federal matching assistance, establish
12 the income eligibility level for the medically needy
13 program at one hundred thirty-three per cent of the
14 assistance allowance."

15 SECTION 5. Section 346-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17 "(a) This subsection does not apply to general assistance
18 to households without minor dependents. The standard of need
19 shall equal the [~~poverty level established by the federal~~
20 ~~government in 2006,~~] self-sufficiency standard as established
21 annually by the department of business, economic development,



1 and tourism pursuant to section 201-3, prorated over a twelve-
2 month period based on family size.

3 The assistance allowance provided shall be based on a
4 percentage of the standard of need. For exempt households and
5 households in which all caretaker relatives are minors, living
6 independently with minor dependents and attending school, the
7 assistance allowance shall be set no higher than sixty-two and
8 one-half per cent and no lower than forty-four per cent of the
9 standard of need. For all other households, the assistance
10 allowance shall be set no higher than sixty-two and one-half per
11 cent of the standard of need and set no lower than thirty-four
12 per cent of the standard of need. The standard of need shall be
13 determined by dividing the [~~2006 federal poverty level~~] self-
14 sufficiency standard by twelve and rounding down the quotient.
15 The remaining quotient shall be multiplied by the per cent as
16 set by the director by rules pursuant to chapter 91, and the
17 final product shall be rounded down to determine the assistance
18 allowance; provided that:

19 (1) The department may increase or reduce the assistance
20 allowance as determined in this subsection for non-
21 exempt households for the purpose of providing work
22 incentives or services under part XI;



- 1 (2) No reduction shall be allowed that jeopardizes
- 2 eligibility for or receipt of federal funds;
- 3 (3) Reductions in the assistance allowance shall be
- 4 limited to no more than one per year; and
- 5 (4) No non-exempt household, which includes an adult who
- 6 has received sixty cumulative months of temporary
- 7 assistance to needy families with minor dependents,
- 8 shall be eligible for an assistance allowance, unless
- 9 authorized by federal regulations."

10 SECTION 6. The department shall report to the legislature
 11 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
 12 session of 2008, and annually thereafter, on the number of
 13 persons exiting public assistance, food stamp, and medical
 14 assistance programs for work, utilizing the annually adjusted
 15 self-sufficiency standard after 2007.

16 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

19

INTRODUCED BY: 



 Della An Belatti



Report Title:

Human Services; Self-Sufficiency Standard

Description:

Requires the department of human services to apply a self-sufficiency standard, to be established and updated annually by the department of business, economic development, and tourism to determine the amount of assistance allowance. Defines self-sufficiency standard. Requires reports to the legislature from the department of human services.

