
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal section
3 8 homeownership option program and the federal housing choice
4 voucher family self-sufficiency program provide unique
5 opportunities for low- and moderate-income earners to save and
6 pay for homeownership. The section 8 homeownership option
7 program provides continued monthly homeownership assistance
8 payments to qualified section 8 housing choice voucher program
9 participants to help reduce their monthly mortgage payments as
10 well as pay for other monthly homeownership expenses in lieu of
11 rental payments.

12 The housing choice voucher family self-sufficiency program
13 provides funds to public housing agencies to hire coordinators
14 to help participating families set a plan for employment,
15 education, and possibly homeownership. A baseline rent is
16 established in the first year. As a family's income increases,
17 the family continues to pay a percentage of its income toward



1 rent, and the difference between its new rental payment and its
2 baseline rent is deposited into an escrow account that can be
3 applied towards the goals in the plan.

4 The purpose of this part is to increase low- and moderate-
5 income families' homeownership by:

6 (1) Appropriating funds to:

7 (A) Increase outreach to increase enrollment in the
8 section 8 homeownership option and the housing
9 choice voucher family self-sufficiency programs;

10 (B) Increase administrative support for both of the
11 programs;

12 (C) Provide matching grants or loan forgiveness to
13 section 8 homeownership option program
14 participants to help with down payments; and

15 (D) Provide additional state matches to housing
16 choice voucher family self-sufficiency program
17 participants to help participants build
18 homeownership savings; and

19 (2) Exempting family self-sufficiency escrow accounts from
20 the asset test for public assistance.

21 SECTION 2. Section 346-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
22 amended by amending subsection (b) to read:



1 "(b) No applicant or recipient who is found guilty of
2 fraudulently misrepresenting residence to obtain assistance in
3 two or more states shall be entitled to public assistance under
4 this chapter for ten years from date of conviction. No
5 applicant or recipient shall be entitled to public assistance
6 under this chapter who is a fugitive felon or who is in
7 violation of a condition of probation or parole or has
8 sufficient income or other resources to provide a standard above
9 that provided in this chapter, or who is an inmate of any public
10 institution, except that any inmate of a public institution who
11 is otherwise eligible for medical assistance and who has been
12 determined by the medical director of the institution as having
13 a major illness or medical condition requiring the provision of
14 medical care outside of the institution may receive assistance
15 under this chapter. An inmate of a public institution or
16 resident of a medical institution may apply for assistance to
17 begin after the inmate's discharge from the institution. In
18 determining the needs of an applicant or recipient for public
19 assistance by the department, the department shall:

20 (1) Disregard the amounts of earned or unearned income as
21 required or allowed by federal acts and other
22 regulations, to receive federal funds and disregard



1 from gross earned income twenty per cent plus \$200 and
2 a percentage of the remaining balance of earned income
3 consistent with federal regulations and other
4 requirements;

5 (2) Consider as net income in all cases the income as
6 federal acts and other regulations require the
7 department to consider for receipt of federal funds
8 and may consider the additional income and resources
9 as these acts and regulations permit [~~now or in the~~
10 ~~future,~~] to be considered;

11 (3) For households with minor dependents, disregard a
12 total of \$5,000 in assets and the value of one motor
13 vehicle in determining the needs of persons for
14 financial assistance; provided that the amount to be
15 disregarded shall not exceed standards under [~~the~~
16 ~~department's~~] federally funded financial assistance
17 programs. This paragraph shall not apply to persons
18 eligible for federal [~~Supplemental Security Income~~]
19 supplemental security income benefits, aid to the
20 aged, blind or disabled, or general assistance to
21 households without minor dependents. In determining
22 the needs of [~~such~~] persons [~~]~~ eligible for federal



supplemental security income benefits, aid to the aged, blind, or disabled, or general assistance to households without minor dependents, the department shall apply all the resource retention and exclusion requirements under the federal [~~Supplemental Security Income Program;~~] supplemental security income program;

(4) Apply the resource retention requirements under the federal [~~Supplemental Security Income Program~~] supplemental security income program in determining the needs of a single person for medical assistance only;

(5) Apply the resource retention requirements under the federal [~~Supplemental Security Income Program~~] supplemental security income program in determining the needs of a family of two persons for medical assistance only and an additional \$250 for each additional person included in an application for medical assistance only;

(6) Disregard amounts of emergency assistance granted under section 346-65;

(7) Not consider as income or resources any payment for services to or on behalf of, or any benefit received



1 by, a participant under the first to work program of
2 part XI, other than wages. Wages earned by a
3 participant while participating in the first to work
4 program shall be considered income of the participant,
5 unless the wages are excluded or disregarded under any
6 other law;

7 (8) Not consider as income or resources payment made to
8 eligible individuals, eligible surviving spouses,
9 surviving children or surviving parents as specified
10 under Title I of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988,
11 Public Law 100-383, which made restitution to
12 individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned
13 during World War II;

14 (9) Allow the community spouse of an individual residing
15 in a medical institution to maintain countable
16 resources to the maximum allowed by federal statutes
17 or regulations with provisions for increases, as
18 allowed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
19 by means of indexing, court order, or fair hearing
20 decree, without jeopardizing the eligibility of the
21 institutionalized spouse for medical assistance;



- 1 (10) Allow an individual residing in a medical institution
2 to contribute toward the support of the individual's
3 community spouse, thereby enabling the community
4 spouse to maintain the monthly maximum income allowed
5 by federal statutes or regulations, with provisions
6 for increases as allowed by the Secretary of Health
7 and Human Services by means of indexing, court order,
8 or fair hearing decree; ~~and~~
- 9 (11) Consider the transfer of assets from the applicant's
10 name to another name within the specified time period
11 as required by federal regulations, known as the
12 "lookback" period, prior to the application for
13 medical assistance for care in a nursing home or other
14 long-term care facility. Pursuant to rules adopted
15 under chapter 91, the director may attribute any
16 assets that have been transferred within the required
17 federal "lookback" period from the applicant if the
18 director determines that transfer of certain assets
19 was made solely to make the applicant eligible for
20 assistance under this chapter~~[+]~~; and
- 21 (12) Not consider as income or resources any funds
22 deposited into a family self-sufficiency escrow



1 account on behalf of a participant under a federal
2 housing choice voucher family self-sufficiency program
3 as required or allowed under federal law."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
8 2008-2009 for the Hawaii public housing authority to:

- 9 (1) Increase outreach to increase enrollment in the
10 section 8 homeownership option and the housing choice
11 voucher family self-sufficiency programs;
- 12 (2) Increase administrative support for both of the
13 programs;
- 14 (3) Provide matching grants or loan forgiveness to section
15 8 homeownership option program participants to help
16 with down payments; and
- 17 (4) Provide additional state matches to housing choice
18 voucher family self-sufficiency program participants
19 to help participants build homeownership savings.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
21 public housing authority for the purposes of this part.



PART II

1
2 SECTION 4. Section 346-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

4 "(c) The director, pursuant to chapter 91, shall determine
5 the rate of payment for domiciliary care, including care
6 provided in licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary
7 homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult
8 foster homes, to be provided to recipients who are eligible
9 ~~[either]~~ for Federal Supplementary Security Income~~[r]~~ or public
10 assistance ~~[in accordance with state standards]~~, or both. The
11 director shall provide for level of care payment as follows:

12 (1) For ~~[these]~~ adult residential care homes classified as
13 facility type I, licensed developmental disabilities
14 domiciliary homes as defined under section 321-15.9,
15 community care foster family homes as defined under
16 section 346-331, and certified adult foster homes as
17 defined under section 321-11.2, the state supplemental
18 payment shall not exceed ~~[\$621.90; and]~~ \$641.90;

19 (2) For ~~[these]~~ adult residential care homes classified as
20 facility type II, the state supplemental payment shall
21 not exceed ~~[\$729.90.]~~ \$749.90; and



H.B. NO. 928
H.D. 1
S.D. 2
C.D. 2

Report Title:

Social Services; Homeownership

Description:

Exempts certain escrow accounts from the asset test for public assistance. Increases state supplemental payments for certain domiciliary care. Appropriates funds for homeownership programs. (HB928 CD2)

