

JAN 19 2012

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§346- Cash assistance programs; restrictions on use.

(a) Hawaii electronic benefit transfer debit cardholders in either the temporary assistance for needy families, temporary assistance for other needy families, or general assistance programs are prohibited from using cash assistance funds for the purchase of liquor or tobacco products. An eligible recipient of cash assistance who makes a purchase in violation of this subsection shall reimburse the department for the purchase.

(b) No individual, store owner, or retailer shall knowingly accept cash assistance held on electronic benefit transfer cards for the purchase of liquor or tobacco products. An individual, store owner, or retailer who is convicted for violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided that if the value of the liquor or tobacco products sold exceeds \$300, an individual, store owner, or retailer



1 convicted for violating this subsection shall be guilty of a
2 class C felony.

3 (c) For the purposes of this section:

4 "Liquor" has the same meaning as in section 244D-1.

5 "Tobacco products" means tobacco in any form."

6 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Report Title:

Public Assistance Programs; Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards;
Prohibited Purchases; Liquor; Tobacco

Description:

Prohibits temporary assistance for needy families, temporary assistance for other needy families, and general assistance program recipients from using cash assistance funds to purchase liquor or tobacco products.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

