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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A HAWAII SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 349, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
3 to read as follows:

4           "PART       . HAWAII SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM

5           §349-       Hawaii senior benefits payment program;

6 established. (a) There is established within the executive  
7 office on aging for administrative purposes the Hawaii senior  
8 benefits payment program to provide cash benefits for living  
9 expenses to senior citizens in the State, as far as practicable  
10 pursuant to appropriations provided by law.

11           (b) If the executive office on aging determines that there  
12 are insufficient appropriated funds to meet the demands of the  
13 program during any fiscal year, the executive office on aging  
14 may reduce or eliminate the cash benefit available to any  
15 recipient of the program.



1           §349-       Cash assistance benefit. (a) To be eligible for  
2 a cash assistance benefit under the Hawaii senior benefits  
3 payment program, an individual shall:

- 4           (1) Be sixty-five years of age or older;
- 5           (2) Be a resident of the State;
- 6           (3) Be a citizen of the United States or a qualified  
7           alien;
- 8           (4) Have a household income that does not exceed one  
9           hundred seventy-five per cent of the annual federal  
10          poverty line for the State, as established by the  
11          Secretary of Health and Human Services under the  
12          Community Service Block Grant Act, 42 U.S.C. section  
13          9902; and
- 14          (5) Complete an application in a format prescribed by the  
15          executive office on aging;

16 provided that any otherwise qualified individual who resides in  
17 a prison, jail, nursing home, or institution for mental health,  
18 whether public or private, shall not be qualified for any  
19 benefit under this part.

20           (b) An eligible individual shall receive a monthly cash  
21 assistance payment beginning on August 1, 2020, as follows:



1           (1)   \$           if the individual's household income does not  
2                    exceed seventy-five per cent of the federal poverty  
3                    line for Hawaii;

4           (2)   \$           if the individual's household income does not  
5                    exceed one hundred per cent but is above seventy-five  
6                    per cent of the federal poverty line for Hawaii; or

7           (3)   \$           if the individual's household income does not  
8                    exceed one hundred seventy-five per cent but is above  
9                    one hundred per cent of the federal poverty line for  
10                  Hawaii.

11           (c)   Cash assistance provided pursuant to this section is  
12                  subject to appropriation.

13           (d)   For purposes of this section:

14           (1)   "Resident" means a person for whom Hawaii is both  
15                    domicile and place of physical residence; and

16           (2)   "Qualified alien" means a lawfully admitted permanent  
17                    resident under the United States Immigration and  
18                    Nationality Act.

19           §349-        Continuation of benefits; absence from the State.  
20           An eligible individual who leaves the State for more than thirty  
21           consecutive calendar days may not receive a cash benefit



1 pursuant to this part during that absence, unless the  
2 individual's absence is temporary and is for one of the  
3 following reasons:

- 4 (1) To receive medical treatment for the eligible  
5 individual;
- 6 (2) To accompany the eligible individual's family member  
7 who is receiving medical treatment outside the State;  
8 or
- 9 (3) For vacation or business travel outside the State, or  
10 for any other absence totaling less than thirty  
11 consecutive calendar days, unless the eligible  
12 individual has applied for and received a time  
13 extension from the executive office on aging.

14 **§349- Recovery of improper assistance or benefits.** An  
15 individual is liable to the executive office on aging for the  
16 value of assistance or benefits improperly paid to the  
17 individual under this part if the improper payment was based on  
18 inaccurate or incomplete information provided by the individual.  
19 In any civil action brought by the State to recover from the  
20 individual the value of assistance or benefits improperly paid  
21 under this part, the State may recover from the individual the



1 costs of investigation and prosecution of the civil action,  
2 including attorney fees."

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
6 the Hawaii senior benefits payment program.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
8 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

10

INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 1987

**Report Title:**

Executive Office on Aging; Hawaii Senior Benefits Payment Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes within the Executive Office on Aging the Hawaii Senior Benefits Payment Program to provide qualifying senior citizens in the State with a monthly stipend to defray cost of living expenses. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2020.

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

