

DAVID Y. IGE
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DEPT. COMM. NO. 410

CATHY BETTS
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted in accordance with section 346-57.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Special Fund.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts
Director

Enclosure

c:

Governor's Office

Lieutenant Governor's Office

Department of Budget & Finance

Legislative Auditor

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President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki

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**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
2021**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 346-57.5, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES, ON THE
INTERIM ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT SPECIAL FUND**

**Benefit, Employment, And Support Services Division
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
February 2021**

REPORT ON SECTION 346-57.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Section 346-57.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the Department submit a report to the Legislature detailing the amount of, and reason for, any expenditure from the Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) special fund within ten business days of the expenditure. The IAR has a \$3 million ceiling.

The following are the expenditures from the IAR through February 2021, all expenditures have been made to address the increased demand for cash assistance for the General Assistance program during the current COVID pandemic.

Expenditure Date	Amount
06/30/2020	\$202,223
12/14/2020	\$2,325,000
01/28/2021	\$675,000

The General Assistance Program provides cash assistance for adults with temporary disabilities, without dependent minor children. Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, recipient cases have increased **30%** since February 2020. The chart below shows the monthly case numbers.

General Assistance Program:											
Caseload: February 2020 through December 2020											
Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Increase
5,201	5,472	5,977	6,647	7,015	7,094	6,946	6,802	6,814	6,732	6,765	30%

Due to the sustained caseload DHS currently has a pending request for an emergency appropriation for State Fiscal Year 2021 for \$5.4 million. DHS projects caseloads will continue to remain at high levels through the next biennium, and have included in the executive budget, requests to increase the General Assistance program appropriation by \$5.4 million for each year of the biennium.