



GOV. MSG. NO. 1339

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2022

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

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

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

This is to inform you that on July 1, 2022, the following bill was signed into law:

HB2233 HD1 SD2

RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR  
NEEDY FAMILIES.  
**ACT 237**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

JUL 01 2022

on \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022  
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 237

H.B. NO. 2233  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the temporary  
2 assistance for needy families program, or TANF, is a federally  
3 funded financial assistance program designed to help families in  
4 need achieve self-sufficiency. The temporary assistance for  
5 other needy families program, or TAONF, is a state funded  
6 program that mirrors the rules of TANF and is designed to assist  
7 Hawaii families with minor children who are not eligible to  
8 receive temporary assistance for needy families program benefits  
9 due to their citizenship. Both programs provide for sixty  
10 months of assistance, though most families in Hawaii participate  
11 in the programs for approximately twenty-four months. The funds  
12 appropriated for the temporary assistance for other needy  
13 families program make up a significant percentage of Hawaii's  
14 maintenance of effort required to receive federal program funds.

15           For both programs, recipients must participate in the  
16 first-to-work program as a condition of eligibility. The  
17 first-to-work program assists recipient families with obtaining



1 employment through various educational and work-related  
2 activities. First-to-work program participants may be eligible  
3 for supportive services such as job readiness support, education  
4 and work-related expenses, and transportation assistance.

5 The legislature finds that under existing administrative  
6 rules for the first-to-work program, participants may receive a  
7 maximum housing allowance equal to sixty per cent of the  
8 household income. However, only a one-time payment in an amount  
9 not to exceed two months of rent is currently permitted.

10 The legislature further finds that of the \$98,000,000 block  
11 grant that the State receives each year for the temporary  
12 assistance for needy families program, approximately \$41,000,000  
13 is encumbered. Approximately \$57,000,000 of the remaining  
14 balance is placed in a reserve account held for the State by the  
15 federal government.

16 The legislature finds that low-income residents  
17 participating in the first-to-work program likely need  
18 assistance to meet their housing costs. In December 2021, the  
19 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the  
20 average housing costs for Honolulu-area households are \$23,572  
21 per year and account for 38.7 per cent of the area's household



1 budget, compared to the 33.8 per cent United States average.  
2 Additionally, the National Low Income Housing Coalition ranked  
3 Hawaii as the state with one of the highest living wage needed  
4 to afford a two bedroom rental home. The Coalition estimates  
5 that twenty per cent of Hawaii's low income residents and  
6 sixty-nine per cent of severely low income residents pay more  
7 than fifty per cent of their household income for rent.

8 The legislature also finds that the 2021 median prices for  
9 single-family homes and condominiums in Hawaii are at record  
10 highs. Reports from the housing industry predict that rising  
11 home values have led property owners to consider selling, which  
12 may result in displacing long-term tenants and decrease the  
13 number of available rental units. With fewer available rental  
14 units, rents will likely increase.

15 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of  
16 human services to provide additional housing assistance  
17 subsidies to recipients of temporary assistance for needy  
18 families, or temporary assistance for other needy families, who  
19 are participants of the first-to-work program.

20 SECTION 2. Section 346-261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1           "§346-261 First-To-Work; establishment; purpose. (a)  
2 There is established a mandatory work program for certain  
3 applicants and recipients of temporary assistance for needy  
4 families and temporary assistance for other needy families  
5 consistent with federal regulations and requirements under title  
6 [~~IV-A~~] IV, part A of the Social Security Act, title 42 United  
7 States Code section 601 et seq. The purposes of the  
8 first-to-work program shall be to encourage, assist, and require  
9 temporary assistance for needy families and temporary assistance  
10 for other needy families applicants and recipients to fulfill  
11 their responsibilities to support their children by preparing  
12 for, accepting, and retaining employment. The department shall  
13 adopt rules consistent with the requirements of title [~~IV-A~~] IV,  
14 part A of the Social Security Act, title 42 United States Code  
15 section 601 et seq., and in accordance with chapter 91 for the  
16 purposes of this part.

17           (b) The department may provide housing assistance  
18 subsidies of up to \$500 per month to eligible households  
19 receiving benefits under the temporary assistance for needy  
20 families or temporary assistance for other needy families  
21 programs during the household's participation in the



1 first-to-work program. Any plan developed pursuant to section  
2 346-51.5 for expenditure of temporary assistance for needy  
3 families funds shall be updated to account for expenditures for  
4 housing assistance subsidies. The expenditure of funds for the  
5 administration of housing assistance subsidies shall be exempt  
6 from chapters 103D and 103F."

7 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 1st day of July , 2022



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 2233, HD 1, SD 2

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 3, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives





Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 12, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2022.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate