
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 first-
17 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 sixty-
6 nine per cent of severely low income residents pay more than
7 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 and appropriate
16 funds for the department of human services to provide additional
17 housing assistance subsidies to recipients of temporary
18 assistance for needy families, or temporary assistance for other
19 needy families, who are participants of the first-to-work
20 program.



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

3 **"§346-261 First-To-Work; establishment; purpose. (a)**

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

19 (b) The department may provide housing assistance
20 subsidies of up to \$500 per month to eligible households
21 receiving benefits under the temporary assistance for needy



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

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,925,980 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
12 housing assistance subsidies for the temporary assistance for
13 other needy families program participants.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 human services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the federal funds
17 received by the State of Hawaii the sum of \$19,168,020 or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
19 housing assistance subsidies for the temporary assistance for
20 needy families program participants.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the federal funds
4 received by the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for system
6 modifications for the temporary assistance for needy families
7 program.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 human services for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
11 provided that sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act shall take effect
12 on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF); Housing Assistance; System Modification Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide additional housing assistance subsidies of up to \$500 per month to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) program participants who are participating in the First-To-Work program. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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