
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 (TANF) program 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 (TAONF) program, is a state funded program
6 that mirrors the rules of TANF and is designed to assist Hawaii
7 families with minor children who are not eligible to receive
8 TANF program benefits due to their citizenship. Both programs
9 provide for sixty months of assistance, though most families in
10 Hawaii participate in the programs for approximately twenty-four
11 months. The funds appropriated for the TAONF program make up a
12 significant percentage of Hawaii's maintenance of effort
13 required to receive federal program funds.

14 For both programs, recipients must participate in the
15 first-to-work program as a condition of eligibility. The first-
16 to-work program assists recipient families to obtain employment
17 through various educational and work-related activities. First-



1 to-work participants may be eligible for supportive services
2 such as job readiness support, education and work-related
3 expenses, and transportation assistance.

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

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

14 The legislature finds that low-income residents
15 participating in the first-to-work program likely need
16 assistance to meet their housing costs. In December 2021, the
17 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the
18 average housing cost for Honolulu-area households is \$23,572 per
19 year and accounts for 38.7 per cent of the area's household
20 budget, compared to the 33.8 per cent United States average.
21 Additionally, the National Low Income Housing Coalition ranked



1 Hawaii as the state with the highest living wage needed to
2 afford a two-bedroom rental home. The Coalition estimates that
3 twenty per cent of Hawaii's low-income residents and sixty-nine
4 per cent of severely low-income residents pay more than fifty
5 per cent of their household income on rent.

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

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

19 SECTION 2. Section 346-261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 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 first-to-
8 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 eligible households
18 receiving benefits under the temporary assistance for needy
19 families or temporary assistance for other needy families
20 programs with housing assistance subsidies of up to \$500 per
21 month during their participation in the first-to-work program.



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

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,557,520 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to fund
10 the housing assistance subsidies for the temporary assistance
11 for other needy families program.

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

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the federal funds
15 received by the State of Hawaii the sum of \$16,206,480 or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
17 fund the housing assistance subsidies for temporary assistance
18 for needy families program participants.

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



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
4 department of human services to make enhancements to its case
5 management and payment system to implement this Act.

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

8 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
11 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide housing assistance subsidies of up to \$500 per month to TANF and TAONF program participants who are participating in the First-To-Work Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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