
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's residents
2 often face significant challenges meeting the requirements to
3 apply for and verify eligibility for state managed social
4 assistance programs, such as food or housing assistance or
5 assistance for elderly or disabled persons. These individuals
6 often must provide the same information multiple times for
7 different programs and must repeat this process at regular
8 intervals. Some programs have different benefit eligibility
9 requirements, which can cause confusion for persons applying for
10 multiple programs at the same time.

11 Recent changes to federal requirements for some federal
12 social assistance programs, such increases in the frequency of
13 eligibility verification and the introduction of new eligibility
14 requirements, are expected to increase the challenges Hawaii's
15 residents face in accessing benefits and the administrative
16 burden on the agencies providing these services to Hawaii's
17 residents. One particular challenge is the new medicaid



1 eligibility requirement to document "community engagement" in
2 the form of proof of work, training, or volunteer activities of
3 up to eighty hours a month.

4 The legislature further finds that the office of enterprise
5 technology services has the ability to procure master data
6 management, data governance, and data lakehouse tools. With
7 these tools, the office of enterprise technology services can
8 create a Hawaii benefits hub, which can act as a central portal
9 to assist residents applying for state managed benefits. The
10 Hawaii benefits hub can be established through a combination of:

- 11 (1) Master data management to understand applicants
12 holistically across social assistance programs;
- 13 (2) Data governance to protect applicant privacy and
14 ensure compliance with all applicable federal and
15 state laws and regulations;
- 16 (3) A data lakehouse that will allow applicants to share
17 data between different social assistance programs and
18 provide proactive reminders and alerts for residents
19 about their benefit eligibility; and



1 (4) A central data integration platform that can collect
2 working and volunteering hours from applicants,
3 employers, and nonprofit organizations.

4 The legislature additionally finds that establishing a
5 Hawaii benefits hub will greatly improve the ability of Hawaii's
6 residents to access state managed social assistance benefit
7 programs and ensure they are aware of, and can meet, all
8 eligibility requirements for the benefits they are applying for.
9 The Hawaii benefits hub can act as a single point of entry for
10 residents to identify which services they are eligible for,
11 provide the information needed for all participating benefit
12 programs, and receive alerts and recommended actions to remain
13 eligible for their benefits. The Hawaii benefits hub will also
14 reduce administrative burdens for agencies managing social
15 assistance programs by being a central repository for
16 eligibility data, which will reduce redundant costs and ensure
17 the consistency of data provided to all participating agencies.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
19 appropriate funds for the office of enterprise technology
20 services to establish a Hawaii benefits hub.



SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§27- Hawaii benefits hub; established; requirements.

(a) There is establish with the office of enterprise technology services a Hawaii benefits hub to act as a central repository for the needs and credentials of Hawaii's residents applying to state managed social assistance benefit programs and as a central registry for qualified volunteer and educational programs that meet social assistance benefit program community engagement requirements. The Hawaii benefits hub shall provide applicants with:

(1) Real-time information on current eligibility and verification requirements for state managed social assistance programs; and

(2) A user interface, such as an application or webpage, that will allow applicants to enter information to apply for state managed social assistance programs.

(b) In establishing the Hawaii benefits hub, the office of enterprise technology services shall purchase or develop the following:



1 (1) A data governance tool to ensure data quality and
2 privacy protection with secured, controlled data
3 sharing;

4 (2) A data management platform to request and manage data
5 from employers, educational institutions, non-profit
6 organizations, and federal and state agencies and
7 provide adjustments to any eligibility or verification
8 requirements for state managed social assistance
9 programs;

10 (3) A data interface tool to link all systems and
11 applications for the purpose of data transfer; and

12 (4) A data science tool with machine learning or
13 artificial intelligence capabilities to predict
14 applicant needs, alert applicants to potential loss of
15 benefits, and provide applicants with information on
16 the nearest available opportunity to satisfy any
17 community engagement or other benefit eligibility
18 requirements.

19 (c) Every employer, educational institution, nonprofit
20 organization, and state agency shall, upon request from the
21 Hawaii benefits hub, provide the Hawaii benefits hub with



information on an applicant's wages and hours worked. Data
provided by an employer, educational institution, nonprofit
organization, and state agency shall be provided in real time,
if practicable, or within one business day of the request if the
provision of data in real time is impracticable. Every
employer, educational institution, nonprofit organization, and
state agency shall comply with all applicable federal and state
laws and regulations when sharing data with the Hawaii benefits
hub."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,250,000 or so much
thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
establishment of the Hawaii benefits hub, to be allocated as
follows:

(1) \$2,000,000 for a consultant to implement the Hawaii
benefits hub system;

(2) \$500,000 to establish:

(A) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent
project manager;

(B) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent data
architect;



1 (C) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent data
2 engineer; and

3 (D) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent data
4 frontend developer;

5 (3) \$250,000 for data and artificial intelligence
6 governing tools;

7 (4) \$500,000 for computing and storage capacity;

8 (5) \$500,000 for an integration platform; and

9 (6) \$500,000 for a user interface.

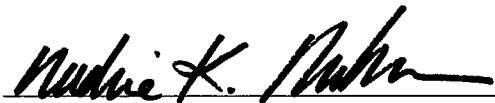
10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
11 enterprise technology services for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

14

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 2114

Report Title:

Office of Enterprise Technology Services; Hawaii Benefits Hub;
Social Assistance Programs; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Benefits Hub within the Office of
Enterprise Technology Services. Appropriates funds.

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