
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 are currently required to submit multiple application processes
3 to apply for and verify eligibility for state-managed,
4 federally-funded public assistance programs, such as financial
5 and food assistance, health care coverage, or housing
6 assistance. Residents must provide the same information
7 multiple times for different applications and are required to
8 repeat this process at regular intervals to maintain
9 eligibility. Programs have different benefit eligibility
10 requirements, which can cause further confusion for persons
11 attempting to apply for multiple programs at the same time.

12 The legislature further finds that the One Big Beautiful
13 Bill Act, Public Law 119-21, and other recent federal policy
14 changes require the State to modify its information systems to
15 comply with federal program changes. It is important that these
16 program and system changes are made to ensure eligible residents
17 can maintain access to public assistance and services and that



1 the state complies with the new requirements to maximize access
2 to federal funds.

3 The legislature further finds that that a Hawaii benefits
4 hub should be developed to serve as a centralized, digital
5 application system that enables residents to apply for state-
6 managed public assistance programs through a single, unified
7 platform. The single unified platform will benefit the public
8 by giving residents one, simple, secure portal to apply for
9 multiple services at once, making it easier and faster to access
10 and maintain the services that they need. The Hawaii benefits
11 hub may also reduce administrative burdens for agencies managing
12 public assistance programs by being a central repository for
13 eligibility data, which may reduce costs and ensure the
14 consistency of data provided to all participating agencies.

15 The legislature further finds that the creation of a
16 benefits hub is also an opportunity to shift away from a static
17 government database to a dynamic referral network of community-
18 based organizations, education opportunities, and employers.
19 Additionally, the benefits hub could eliminate manual reporting
20 of work and volunteer hours from applicants, employers, and
21 nonprofit organizations and, instead, automate compliance.



1 Beyond that, it could use technology to make referrals within
2 the network, track outcomes and service gaps, and measure the
3 actual return on investment of social services interventions.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
5 working group to discuss a centralized platform that meets the
6 requirements and operations of public assistance programs and
7 develop a plan for the governance and implementation of the
8 Hawaii benefits hub and related referral, tracking, compliance,
9 and coordination services.

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Hawaii benefits hub
11 working group to develop a plan for the governance and
12 implementation of the Hawaii benefits hub and related referral,
13 tracking, compliance, and coordination systems. The plan shall
14 include recommendations for:

- 15 (1) A governance structure for implementation and
16 management of the Hawaii benefits hub;
- 17 (2) The necessary funding and timeline for integrating key
18 social assistance online services; and
- 19 (3) The necessary funding and timeline for implementing
20 the Hawaii benefits hub and related referral,
21 tracking, compliance, and coordination services.

- 1 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
2 members:
- 3 (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives, who shall serve as co-chair of the
6 working group;
- 7 (2) One member of the senate, to be appointed by the
8 senate president, who shall serve as co-chair of the
9 working group;
- 10 (3) The director of human services or the director's
11 designee;
- 12 (4) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 13 (5) The director of labor and industrial relations or the
14 director's designee;
- 15 (6) The chief information officer or the chief information
16 officer's designee; and
- 17 (7) Any other person that the co-chairs wish to invite to
18 serve on the working group.
- 19 (c) The working group shall submit an interim report of
20 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior



1 to the convening of the regular session of 2027, and a final
2 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
3 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
4 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028.

5 (d) The working group shall dissolve on June 30, 2028.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
9 procuring a consultant to coordinate the Hawaii benefits hub
10 working group, hiring full-time equivalent (FTE)
11 permanent project manager, and any necessary administrative
12 expenses.

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

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 2114
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Report Title:

OETS Hawaii Benefits Hub Working Group; Social Assistance Programs; Position; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Benefits Hub Working Group to develop a plan for the governance and implementation of the Hawaii Benefits Hub and related referral, tracking, compliance, and coordination systems. Requires reports to the Legislature. Establishes a position within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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