
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that families with
2 children experiencing homelessness often face immediate and
3 urgent financial needs that threaten housing stability and
4 school attendance. Students identified as experiencing
5 homelessness require timely, flexible assistance to address
6 basic necessities that directly affect their ability to remain
7 engaged in school.

8 The legislature further finds that the department of
9 education's education for homeless children and youth program
10 provides critical support to students identified as experiencing
11 homelessness and that additional, flexible financial resources
12 administered at the complex area level would enhance the
13 department's ability to stabilize families during periods of
14 crisis.

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year pilot
16 program allowing the use of allowable temporary assistance for
17 needy families funds to provide short-term, flexible assistance



1 to eligible families of students experiencing homelessness,
2 while maintaining fiscal accountability and compliance with
3 federal and state requirements.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a two-year pilot
5 program within the department of education, to be headed by the
6 state coordinator for education for homeless children and youth,
7 to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance to
8 families with enrolled students identified as experiencing
9 homelessness.

10 (b) The pilot program shall be funded through the
11 department of human services using allowable temporary
12 assistance for needy families funds, subject to federal and
13 state requirements. Funds shall be allocated to the state
14 coordinator for equitable distribution to complex area community
15 homeless concerns liaisons.

16 (c) Prior to the use of funds for any family, the
17 appropriate complex area community homeless concerns liaison
18 shall conduct a department of human services temporary
19 assistance for needy families eligibility screening survey with
20 the family.



3 (1) Identified as experiencing homelessness under the
4 department of education's form MV-1; and

12 (f) Funds distributed under the pilot program shall be
13 used in a flexible spending model to address immediate needs
14 necessary to stabilize the family, including but not limited to:

15 (1) Food;

16 (2) Clothing;

17 (3) Transportation support, including gasoline or public

18 transportation passes; and

19 (4) Other short-term necessities that directly support

20 student attendance and stability.



(g) All purchases for families and students using pilot program funds shall be made directly by the appropriate complex area community homeless concerns liaison; provided that:

(1) Individual purchases shall not exceed \$200 per transaction;

(2) The total assistance provided shall not exceed \$500 per eligible student per school year; and

(3) Spending limits shall apply regardless of the number of transactions conducted.

10 (h) No direct monetary disbursements, cash assistance, or
11 gift cards shall be provided to families or students under the
12 pilot program.

13 (i) If a family has students enrolled in schools located
14 in different complex areas:

15 (1) Any respective complex area community homeless
16 concerns liaison may make allowable purchases on
17 behalf of the family; and

18 (2) The community homeless concerns liaison making the
19 purchase shall provide a copy of the purchase receipt
20 and related documentation to all other involved
21 liaisons for record-keeping purposes.



4 (k) The department of education shall provide periodic
5 reports to the department of human services detailing:

6 (1) The number of students and families served;

7 (2) The types of assistance provided;

8 (3) Total expenditures; and

9 (4) Any additional information required to ensure

10 temporary assistance for needy families compliance.
11 (1) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,
12 2028, unless extended by the legislature.

13 SECTION 2. The department of education, in consultation
14 with the department of human services, may adopt rules pursuant
15 to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as necessary to
16 implement this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2560

Report Title:

DOE; DHS; Homelessness; Pilot Program; Education for Homeless Children and Youth; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Financial Stabilization Assistance

Description:

Establishes a two-year-pilot program within the Department of Education, to be headed by the State Coordinator for Education for Homeless Children and Youth, to provide temporary financial stabilization assistance to families with students identified as experiencing homelessness. Funds the program through the Department of Human Services using allowable Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds.

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