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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GRANTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal  
2 requirements for eligibility to receive assistance from programs  
3 such as medicaid, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
4 Program (SNAP), and federally funded public housing have changed  
5 pursuant to Public Law No. 119-21. There are now additional  
6 requirements for certain federal programs for individuals who  
7 are between the ages of eighteen and fifty-four, able to work,  
8 and do not have any dependents, also known as able-bodied adults  
9 without dependents. Able-bodied adult without dependents must  
10 now document community engagement to qualify for certain federal  
11 programs, which can consist of a combination of work, training,  
12 school, or volunteer efforts for a certain minimum number of  
13 hours per month. These eligibility requirements have expanded  
14 to new populations of SNAP beneficiaries and are required for  
15 the first time for other programs. The legislature believes  
16 that it is imperative to support nonprofit organizations in  
17 providing expanded or new opportunities for volunteer and



1 training hours so that residents may more easily meet federal  
2 program eligibility requirements, contribute to the local  
3 community through volunteer work, and gain new employment skills  
4 through training.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
6 office of community services of the department of labor and  
7 industrial relations to award grants, pursuant to chapter 42F,  
8 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and other qualifications, for fiscal  
9 year 2026-2027 to nonprofit organizations that expand or create  
10 new opportunities for residents needing to meet community  
11 engagement requirements to qualify for federal programs.

12 SECTION 2. The legislature finds and declares that the  
13 grants made pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
14 under this Act are in the public interest and for the public  
15 health, safety, and general welfare.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to the  
19 office of community services of the department of labor and  
20 industrial relations for the awarding of grants made pursuant to  
21 chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the benefit of



1 nonprofit organizations in the State of Hawaii; provided that  
2 the appropriation authorized by this section shall not lapse at  
3 the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;  
4 provided further that all moneys from the appropriation  
5 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

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

8 SECTION 4. (a) Provided that of the general fund  
9 appropriation for the office of community services of the  
10 department of labor and industrial relations (program ID LBR903)  
11 authorized under section 3, the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 shall be  
13 expended on grants issued in accordance with subsection (b) and  
14 chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, except where inapplicable  
15 pursuant to this section.

16 (b) In selecting recipients and awarding and administering  
17 grants funded by the appropriation contained in section 3, there  
18 is established an evaluation and selection committee to oversee  
19 the evaluation and selection of, and determine grant award  
20 amounts to, nonprofit applicants; provided that the requirement  
21 to submit grant requests to the appropriate standing committees



1 of the legislature pursuant to section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised  
2 Statutes, shall not apply to grants applied for pursuant to this  
3 Act. The evaluation and selection committee shall be composed  
4 of the following members:

5 (1) Two senators appointed by the president of the senate;  
6 and  
7 (2) Two representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
8 house of representatives.

9 The meetings of the evaluation and selection committee shall not  
10 be subject to part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 (c) To be eligible for a grant funded by the appropriation  
12 contained in section 3, applicants shall provide documentation  
13 of:

14 (1) The nature of planned volunteer activities or training  
15 activities that qualify for community engagement hours  
16 and how those activities will benefit the State or the  
17 participants;  
18 (2) How participants in need of documented community  
19 service hours to verify eligibility for federally  
20 funded programs will be recruited to those programs;  
21 and



3 The grants funded by the appropriation contained in section 3  
4 shall not be used to replace current funding of existing  
5 programs.

6 (d) In evaluating, selecting, awarding, and administering  
7 grants funded by the appropriation contained in section 3, the  
8 evaluation and selection committee shall apply all qualifying  
9 standards, conditions, and other applicable requirements under  
10 chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the grant recipients  
11 and their respective contracts; provided that the grant  
12 application submission deadline contained in section 42F-102,  
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to grants applied for  
14 and funded pursuant to this Act.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$65,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for one  
18 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) temporary program specialist  
19 position to assist the office of community services in awarding  
20 the grants as required by this Act.



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

3        SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
4        revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000 or so much  
5        thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
6        department of the attorney general to assist the office of  
7        community services to review contracts and monitor costs  
8        associated with the awarding of grants as required by this Act.

9        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
10      the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

11       SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act, or the  
12      application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
13      invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
14      applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
15      invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
16      of this Act are severable.

17       SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Office of Community Services; Grants; Community Engagement;  
Attorney General; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Office of Community Services (OCS) to award grants to certain nonprofit organizations. Establishes an evaluation and selection committee to oversee the awarding of grants. Requires an applicant for a grant to provide certain documentation on activities that qualify for community engagement hours to qualify for the grant. Appropriates funds for positions in OCS and for the Department of the Attorney General to assist OCS in reviewing contracts and monitoring costs. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

