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# 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 purpose of this Act is to establish a two-year pilot  
9 program allowing the use of allowable temporary assistance for  
10 needy families funds to provide short-term, flexible assistance  
11 to eligible families of students experiencing homelessness,  
12 while maintaining fiscal accountability and compliance with  
13 federal and state requirements.

14           SECTION 2. (a) There is established a two-year pilot  
15 program within the department of human services to provide  
16 temporary financial stabilization assistance to families with  
17 enrolled students identified as experiencing homelessness.



1 (b) The pilot program shall be funded through the  
2 department of human services using allowable temporary  
3 assistance for needy families funds, subject to federal and  
4 state requirements. Funds shall be allocated by the department  
5 of human services to department of education complex area  
6 community homeless concerns liaisons.

7 (c) Prior to the use of funds for any family, the  
8 appropriate department of education complex area community  
9 homeless concerns liaison shall conduct a department of human  
10 services temporary assistance for needy families eligibility  
11 screening survey with the family.

12 (d) Assistance under the pilot program shall only be  
13 provided to families with one or more enrolled students who are:

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

16 (2) Determined to be eligible for temporary assistance for  
17 needy families assistance based on the completed  
18 eligibility screening.

19 (e) Completed eligibility screening documentation shall be  
20 maintained in the student's confidential records held and



1 managed by the appropriate department of education complex area  
2 community homeless concerns liaison.

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

6 (1) Food;

7 (2) Clothing;

8 (3) Transportation support, including gasoline or public  
9 transportation passes; and

10 (4) Other short-term necessities as determined by the  
11 community homeless concerns liaison; provided that the  
12 short-term necessities are non-recurring and do not  
13 extend beyond a term of four consecutive months;

14 provided that the flexible spending model and any expenditures  
15 are in compliance with the requirements under title 2 Code of  
16 Federal Regulations Part 200.

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



- 1 (1) Individual purchases shall not exceed \$200 per  
2 transaction;
- 3 (2) The total assistance provided shall not exceed \$500  
4 per eligible student per school year; and
- 5 (3) Spending limits shall apply regardless of the number  
6 of transactions conducted.
- 7 (h) No direct monetary disbursements, cash assistance, or  
8 gift cards shall be provided to families or students under the  
9 pilot program; provided that if any federally-funded payments  
10 under the pilot program are made on behalf of eligible families  
11 to third-party payees, then the department of human services  
12 shall ensure that the payees that are compliant with applicable  
13 federal, state, and county laws that in any way affect the  
14 payee's ability to do business in the State, including  
15 compliance with the rules or regulations of the Internal Revenue  
16 Services or department of taxation.
- 17 (i) If a family has students enrolled in schools located  
18 in different department of education complex areas:
- 19 (1) Any respective department of education complex area  
20 community homeless concerns liaison may make allowable  
21 purchases on behalf of the family; and



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

5           (j) The department of human services shall maintain  
6 records of expenditures, eligibility determinations, and  
7 assistance provided pursuant to this Act.

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

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

11          (2) The types of assistance provided;

12          (3) Total expenditures; and

13          (4) Any additional information required to ensure  
14 temporary assistance for needy families compliance.

15          (1) The department of human services and department of  
16 education shall enter into information sharing agreements to  
17 reduce duplication of services already provided by the  
18 department of human services.

19          (m) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,  
20 2028, unless extended by the legislature.



1 SECTION 3. The department of human services, in  
2 consultation with the department of education, may adopt rules  
3 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as necessary to  
4 implement this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

DHS; DOE; Homelessness; Pilot Program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Financial Stabilization Assistance

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year-pilot program within the Department of Human Services 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. Requires Department of Education Complex Area Community Homeless Concerns Liaison to make approved purchases. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

