
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has
2 accumulated an estimated \$470,000,000 in unspent temporary
3 assistance for needy families program funding with approximately
4 \$333,000,000 in encumbrances on that funding. These moneys are
5 required to be spent on needy families that meet the eligibility
6 requirements of the temporary assistance for needy families
7 program.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
9 office of wellness and resilience, in consultation with the
10 department of human services, to develop a comprehensive plan
11 for the establishment of a kakou pilot program to support
12 families and children in need.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The office of wellness and resilience, in
14 consultation with the department of human services, shall
15 develop a comprehensive plan for the establishment of a kakou
16 pilot program to support families and children in need.



1 (b) For the purposes of the kakou pilot program, the
2 office of wellness and resilience shall create a plan to:

3 (1) Provide services for children in need, including child
4 wellness visits;

5 (2) Distribute food boxes to eligible families, as needed;

6 (3) Provide counseling and related support services to
7 eligible families with a focus on families exiting a
8 foster family placement and other at-risk children as
9 determined by the plan;

10 (4) Administer trauma-informed care services to eligible
11 families and children at risk of neglect; and

12 (5) Provide any other related services to support families
13 and children in need in accordance with this Act.

14 (c) The office of wellness and resilience may adopt
15 policies and procedures necessary to develop the plan for the
16 kakou pilot program and carry out the purposes of this Act.

17 (d) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a
18 preliminary report of its comprehensive plan to develop the
19 kakou pilot program, including any proposed legislation, a
20 recommended implementation structure identifying the
21 administering agency or agencies, and recommendations on whether



1 the program should be established, to the legislature no later
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
3 of 2027, and shall submit a final report of its plan to the
4 legislature no later than June 30, 2027.

5 (e) The planning period for the kakou pilot program shall
6 expire on June 30, 2027.

7 (f) For the purposes of this Act, "eligible families"
8 means families who meet eligibility criteria for the temporary
9 assistance for needy families program, as determined by the
10 department of human services, or any other families meeting
11 standards and requirements recommended by the office of wellness
12 and resilience in its comprehensive plan and approved by the
13 administering agency or agencies; provided that such standards
14 shall comply with applicable federal requirements.

15 SECTION 3. Beginning July 1, 2028, the agency or agencies
16 identified pursuant to Section 2(d) may expend temporary
17 assistance for needy families (TANF) funds for the purposes of
18 the kakou pilot program, including \$130,000 per year for an
19 external evaluator to conduct data collection and to assess
20 whether the kakou pilot program meets at least one of the
21 purposes of the temporary assistance for needy families program



1 and whether the kakou pilot program effectively addresses that
2 purpose.

3 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
4 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
5 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
6 conflicting part of this Act shall be inoperative solely to the
7 extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
8 affected, and this finding shall not affect the operation of the
9 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
10 concerned.

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



Report Title:

OWR; DHS; Comprehensive Plan; Kakou Pilot Program; Families and Children in Need; Eligible Families; Administering Agency; TANF

Description:

Requires the Office of Wellness and Resilience, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to develop a comprehensive plan by 6/30/2027 for the establishment of a Kakou Pilot Program to support families and children in need. Requires the Office to submit preliminary and final reports to the Legislature on the plan and identify an administering agency or agencies for the pilot program. Authorizes the administering agency or agencies to expend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program funds for the purposes of the Kakou Pilot Program. 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.

