

---

# 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 funding with approximately  
4 \$333,000,000 in encumbrances on that funding. These moneys are  
5 required to be spent on needy families and families that are  
6 especially susceptible to charges of neglect for failure to  
7 provide shelter, supervision, and other necessities for their  
8 children.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

10 (1) Utilize some of the unspent and unencumbered federal  
11 assistance moneys to establish within the office of  
12 wellness and resilience a kakou pilot program to  
13 support families and children in need; and  
14 (2) Expand eligibility for the \$50 benefit provided under  
15 the Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program established  
16 by Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to include  
17 families ineligible for state Medicaid benefits.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of  
2 wellness and resilience the kakou pilot program to support  
3 families in need.

4 (b) The kakou pilot program shall:

5 (1) Provide services for children in need, including child  
6 wellness visits;  
7 (2) Distribute food boxes to eligible families, as needed;  
8 (3) Provide counseling and related support services to  
9 eligible families with a focus on families exiting a  
10 foster family placement;  
11 (4) Administer trauma-informed care services to vulnerable  
12 families and children in danger of neglect; and  
13 (5) Provide any other related services to support families  
14 and children in need in accordance with this Act.

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

18 (d) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a  
19 report of its findings and recommendations on the kakou pilot  
20 program, including any proposed legislation and recommendations  
21 on whether the program should continue, to the legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
2 session of 2027.

3 (e) The office of wellness and resilience may expend  
4 temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funds for the  
5 purposes of the pilot program.

6 (f) The kakou pilot program shall cease to exist  
7 on .

8 (g) For the purposes of this Act, "eligible families"  
9 means families receiving support from the temporary assistance  
10 for needy families program, and any other families meeting  
11 standards and requirements established by the office of wellness  
12 and resilience.

13 SECTION 3. Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, is  
14 amended by amending section 1 as follows:

15 1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

16 "(b) The pilot program shall pay \$50 to each [state  
17 ~~medicaid benefit~~] eligible recipient for each completed  
18 well-child examination of that recipient parent's child;  
19 provided that only one payment may be made per child each year."

20 2. By amending subsection (e) by adding a new definition  
21 to be appropriately inserted and to read:



1        "Eligible recipient" means a parent receiving support from  
2        the temporary assistance for needy families program, and any  
3        other parent meeting standards and requirements established by  
4        the office of wellness and resilience."

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

13           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14      and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,  
16      and shall be repealed on .



**Report Title:**

OWR; Kakou Pilot Program; TANF; Child Wellness Visits; Food Boxes; Supportive Services; Wellness Benefit; Foster Family Placement; Med-QUEST; Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program; Eligible Recipient

**Description:**

Establishes within the Office of Wellness and Resilience the Kakou Pilot Program to support families and children in need. Expands eligibility for the \$50 benefit under the Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program established by Act 127, SLH 2022, to include families ineligible for state Medicaid benefits. (SD1)

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

