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# 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 to develop a comprehensive  
10 plan for the establishment of a kakou pilot program to support  
11 families and children in need.

12           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of  
13 wellness and resilience the responsibility to develop a  
14 comprehensive plan for the establishment of a kakou pilot  
15 program to support families and children in need.

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



- 1 (1) Provide services for children in need, including child  
2 wellness visits;
- 3 (2) Distribute food boxes to eligible families, as needed;
- 4 (3) Provide counseling and related support services to  
5 eligible families with a focus on families exiting a  
6 foster family placement;
- 7 (4) Administer trauma-informed care services to vulnerable  
8 families and children in danger of neglect; and
- 9 (5) Provide any other related services to support families  
10 and children in need in accordance with this Act.
- 11 (c) The office of wellness and resilience may adopt  
12 policies and procedures necessary to implement the kakou pilot  
13 program and to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- 14 (d) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a  
15 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations on the  
16 development of a kakou pilot program, including any proposed  
17 legislation and recommendations on whether the program should  
18 continue, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
19 the convening of the regular session of 2027, and shall submit a  
20 final report of its plan to the legislature no later than June  
21 30, 2027.



1 (e) Beginning July 1, 2028, the office of wellness and  
2 resilience may expend temporary assistance for needy families  
3 (TANF) funds for the purposes of the kakou pilot program,  
4 including \$130,000 per year for an external evaluator to conduct  
5 data collection and to assess whether the kakou pilot program  
6 meets at least one of the purposes of the temporary assistance  
7 for needy families program and whether the kakou pilot program  
8 effectively addresses that purpose.

9 (f) The planning period for the kakou pilot program shall  
10 cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

11 (g) For the purposes of this Act, "eligible families"  
12 means families who meet eligibility criteria for the temporary  
13 assistance for needy families program, or any other families  
14 meeting standards and requirements established by the office of  
15 wellness and resilience.

16 SECTION 3. If any part of this Act is found to be in  
17 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed  
18 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the  
19 conflicting part of this Act shall be inoperative solely to the  
20 extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly  
21 affected, and this finding shall not affect the operation of the



1 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies  
2 concerned.

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,  
6 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2027; provided that section 2,  
7 subsection (e) shall not be repealed on that date.



**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:**

Requires the Office of Wellness and Resilience to develop a comprehensive plan to establish a Kakou Pilot Program to support families and children in need. Sunsets on 6/30/2027. (SD2)

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

