

A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Assistance.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"Sec. 346- Optometric services, choice.** Whenever visual or optometric services within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed optometrist are included in any program, financed with public funds or administered by any public agency, for aid to the indigent, the aged, the legally blind, or any other group or class, the recipient of the aid shall be entitled to choose whether the services are to be performed by a duly licensed physician or by a duly licensed optometrist. Visual or optometric services as used herein include eye and/or visual examination or a correction of any vision or muscular anomaly and the supplying of ophthalmic materials, including contact lenses and subnormal vision aids.

**Sec. 346- Examination of blind.** The department of social services shall not approve an application for public assistance to a blind person until the applicant has been examined by an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or a qualified physician designated by it to make such examinations. The examining person shall certify to the department the diagnosis, prognosis, and visual acuity of the applicant. Certification shall be in forms prescribed by the department."

SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the underscoring.\*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 5, 1977.)

---

\*Edited accordingly.