

ACT 109

H.B. NO. 2121-86

A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Assistance.

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

SECTION 1. Section 346-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§346-29 Applications for public assistance; manner, form, conditions. Applications for public assistance under this chapter shall be made by the applicant, or by someone acting in the applicant’s behalf, in the manner, place, and form prescribed by the department.

No applicant shall be entitled to public assistance under this chapter who has sufficient income or other resources to provide a standard above that provided in this chapter, or who is an inmate of any public institution as long as the Social Security Act precludes the use of federal funds to provide public assistance to an inmate of such an institution, but an inmate of such an institution mentioned in this section may apply for assistance to begin after the inmate’s discharge from the institution. In determining the needs of an applicant or recipient for public assistance by the department, the department:

- (1) Shall disregard such amounts of earned or unearned income and resources as required by the Social Security Act or other federal acts, to receive federal matching funds and may disregard such additional amounts as these acts permit, now or in the future, to be disregarded.
- (2) Shall consider as net income in all cases such income as the Social Security Act or other federal acts may require the department to consider for receipt of federal matching funds and may consider such additional income and resources as these acts may permit, now or in the future, to be considered.
- (3) Shall disregard a total of \$1000 in [liquid] assets [equal to the maximum possible financial assistance by family size multiplied by a factor of 1.5 and rounded to the nearest \$5] in determining the needs of persons for financial assistance; provided that the amount to be disregarded, shall not exceed standards under federally funded financial assistance programs. This provision [shall apply to the general assistance program but] shall not apply to persons eligible for federal supplemental security income benefits. In determining the needs of such persons, the department shall apply the [eligibility] resource retention requirements under the federal supplemental security income program.
- (4) Shall [disregard a total of at least \$1,500 in liquid assets] apply the resource retention requirements under the federal supplemental security income program in determining the needs of a single person for medical assistance only.
- (5) Shall [disregard a total of at least \$2,250 in liquid assets] apply the resource retention requirements under the federal supplemental security income program in determining the needs of a family of two persons for medical assistance only and an additional \$250 for each additional person included in an application for medical assistance only.

In determining eligibility for medical assistance, the department shall require from all applicants and recipients the assignment of any benefits due to a

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third party liability. Any rights or amounts so assigned shall be applied against the cost of medical care paid under this chapter.

The director shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 defining ["liquid assets"] assets and to determine eligibility for medical assistance; provided that the cash surrender value of life insurance policies owned by persons included in an application shall be treated as [liquid] assets."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved April 29, 1986.)