



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1114**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on April 22, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

SB1107 HD2

**MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION  
FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
ACT 014 (15)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawaii

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THE SENATE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015  
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 14  
S.B. NO. 1107  
H.D. 2

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for  
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014,  
5 appropriated a certain designated sum to the department of human  
6 services to provide funds for the general assistance program  
7 under the benefit, employment and support services division for  
8 the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30,  
9 2015.

10 A critical funding emergency exists. Pursuant to section  
11 346-53(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the general assistance  
12 program is a block grant program. The maximum allowance a  
13 general assistance recipient may receive is determined by  
14 dividing the amount of the appropriation by the number of  
15 general assistance recipients. The general assistance program  
16 will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the current  
17 fiscal year and the department will be unable to maintain the



1 current maximum \$348 per month general assistance payment  
2 benefit to approximately 5,752 (the average General Assistance  
3 caseload for July - November 2014) disabled recipients. The  
4 current assistance grant for disabled individuals is based on  
5 37.1 per cent of the 2006 federal poverty level. This amount is  
6 barely enough to cover living expenses for individuals on a  
7 fixed income who have no other viable means of support.  
8 Stopping the grant payment or reducing the amount of the grant  
9 payment for these individuals poses a real threat to the  
10 individuals' health and safety. To prevent the reduction of  
11 general assistance payments in the fourth quarter of fiscal year  
12 2014-2015, additional funds are urgently needed.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,514,822 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be used  
16 for general assistance payments.

17 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
18 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 22 day of APR, 2015



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII