
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 \$ 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.



Report Title:

General Support for General Assistance Payments (HMS 204);
Emergency Appropriation

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2014-2015 to address the budget shortfall for the general support for the general assistance program (HMS 204) in the Department of Human Services. Effective upon approval. (SB1107 HD1)

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