
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that current state
2 welfare policy often penalizes welfare recipients who seek job
3 promotions or higher paying career opportunities. Receiving
4 increased income often causes welfare recipients to lose their
5 beneficiary status, thus perpetuating financial hardship. The
6 legislature further finds there is a need to revise the welfare
7 payment system to allow recipients to advance in their careers
8 without necessarily losing their beneficiary status.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Establish a task force that shall develop a
11 restructured welfare payment system; and
12 (2) Re-establish the exit and retention bonus program to
13 encourage welfare recipients to transition back into
14 the workforce.

15 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning no later than January 1, 2019,
16 the department of human services, including the financial
17 assistance advisory council, shall convene a task force to



1 revise and restructure the welfare payment structure to
2 incentivize qualifying welfare recipients to advance in their
3 careers while retaining their beneficiary status. The task
4 force shall:

- 5 (1) Examine the current welfare payment structure;
- 6 (2) Revise the welfare payment structure to incentivize
7 qualifying recipients to advance in their careers or
8 seek high paying jobs without necessarily causing
9 recipients to lose their welfare beneficiary status;
- 10 (3) Create a sliding scale payment system to incrementally
11 reduce welfare payments to recipients as they advance
12 in their careers or obtain higher paying jobs; and
- 13 (4) Explore other possible methods to incentivize welfare
14 recipients to seek financial self-sufficiency.

15 (b) The task force shall report to the legislature no
16 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2020
17 regular session on its findings and recommendations, including
18 any recommendations for an implementation plan or legislation.

19 SECTION 3. Beginning no later than January 1, 2019, the
20 department of human services shall re-establish the exit and
21 retention bonus program. The program shall:



- 1 (1) Be available to recipients who voluntarily terminate
- 2 their welfare benefits within a twenty-four month
- 3 period and remain out of the welfare system;
- 4 (2) Provide bonuses available after three, six, twelve,
- 5 and twenty-four months, with bonus amounts increasing
- 6 for more hours of employment; and
- 7 (3) Provide a maximum bonus amount over a period of
- 8 twenty-four months.




9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to re-
 12 establish the exit and retention bonus program.

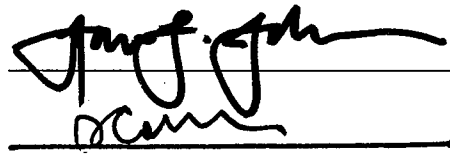
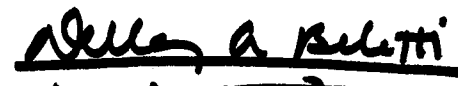

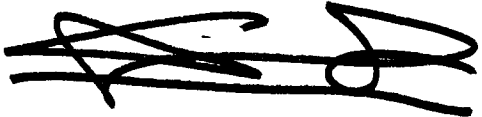

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

16

INTRODUCED BY:


 Nicole E. Lowen





Ch. K. Curran

Bryan

W. A. -

Tom Ben

John M. Hoge

Don

Nadine H. Neukom

JAN 22 2018



H.B. NO. 2204

Report Title:

Human Services; Welfare

Description:

Establishes a task force that shall develop a restructured welfare payment system and re-establishes the exit and retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce. Appropriates funds.

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

