
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 reestablish the exit and
10 retention bonus program to encourage welfare recipients to
11 transition back into the workforce.

12 SECTION 2. The department of human services shall
13 reestablish the exit and retention bonus program. The program
14 shall:

15 (1) Be available to recipients who voluntarily terminate
16 their welfare benefits within a twenty-four month
17 period and remain out of the welfare system;



1 (2) Provide bonuses available after three, six, twelve,
2 and twenty-four months, with bonus amounts increasing
3 for more hours of employment; and

4 (3) Provide a maximum bonus amount over a period of
5 twenty-four months.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
9 reestablish the exit and retention bonus program.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Welfare; Exit and Retention Bonus Program

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services to reestablish the Exit and Retention Bonus Program to encourage welfare recipients to transition back into the workforce. Appropriates funds.
(HB2204 CD1)

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