
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's healthy
2 start program began as a child abuse prevention pilot project in
3 1985. It was expanded statewide in 2001 to prevent child abuse
4 and neglect, and to promote child health and development in
5 newborns of families at risk for poor child outcomes. At one
6 time, there was concern that certain families facing substance
7 abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues were not
8 being effectively enrolled in the program. As a result, a
9 multi-disciplinary team was established, known as enhanced
10 healthy start, to serve families at threatened harm levels of
11 risk, as well as, infants and toddlers confirmed as being
12 subject to abuse or neglect.

13 The following additional program changes have been
14 recommended:

15 (1) Increase prenatal intake as a means of increasing
16 engagement, retention, and effectiveness;



- 1 (2) Focus on risk factors identified on the Family Stress
- 2 Checklist at assessment;
- 3 (3) Improve the ratio of child development specialists and
- 4 clinical specialists to the number of families served;
- 5 and
- 6 (4) Develop training to keep providers abreast of state of
- 7 the art interventions.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
 9 healthy start program, including enhanced healthy start, to
 10 address budgetary shortfalls and to implement recommended
 11 improvements to the program.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,300,000, or so
 14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
 15 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 16 year 2008-2009, for the healthy start program, including
 17 enhanced healthy start, the hiring of a child development
 18 specialist or clinical specialist, and provider training.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 20 of health for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Children; Healthy Start

Description:

Appropriates funds for the healthy start program, including enhanced healthy start, hiring of additional staff, and training.

