
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK.

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

1 SECTION 1. With the severity of the current shortage in
2 social workers, the University of Hawaii school of social work
3 does not have the capacity to produce the number of social
4 workers needed to sustain the profession in this State. Unless
5 this problem is addressed, the State is moving towards de-
6 professionalizing social work positions, which puts service
7 recipients at risk.

8 A director of research will serve to develop a broad-based
9 research agenda for the school of social work. This person will
10 initiate research activities that will serve as the basis for
11 the development of effective programs in areas such as child
12 abuse and neglect, substance abuse including "ice",
13 homelessness, and elderly issues. Hawaii is lacking in
14 evidence-based treatment programs that support the promotion of
15 "best practices."

16 The funding for three additional faculty positions will
17 enable the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of social work



1 to offer a master of social work degree program that can be
2 accessed by residents of the State of Hawaii who would otherwise
3 be unable to pursue advanced degrees at the University of Hawaii
4 because of logistical and other related barriers. The proposed
5 distance education program will be extended initially to
6 residents of the neighbor islands utilizing a technology-based
7 format (i.e., a combination of two-way video and computer-based
8 technology) as the primary means for delivering course material
9 to students. The distance education program will increase the
10 total enrollment in the master of social work program by
11 approximately thirty-eight per cent annually. It has been
12 identified as a high priority program by the university
13 administration because of pressing state workforce needs,
14 particularly on the neighbor islands, and the need to establish
15 better equity for neighbor island residents in relation to
16 access to higher education and professional training. Without
17 funding, the school will be unable to initiate the program.

18 An endowed scholarship will support social work students
19 who have great academic and professional potential and yet lack
20 the financial resources to pay for rising tuition costs at the
21 University of Hawaii. Many of our best candidates are from
22 modest economic backgrounds and first generation college



1 students. This scholarship will enable more students to pursue
2 social work as a career choice and, by easing the economic
3 burden on students and their families, will enable more of them
4 to complete the program and enter the community as professional
5 social service providers.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,320,000, or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
9 the following:

- 10 (1) One professor position (15M11),
11 director of research to head the social
12 work evaluation and training unit of
13 the school of social work. \$ 110,000
- 14 (2) Three assistant professor tenure track
15 positions (13-M09) at the school of
16 social work. 210,000
- 17 (3) An endowed scholarship fund at the
18 school of social work. 1,000,000
- 19 Total \$1,320,000

20 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
21 University of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

2

INTRODUCED BY: Tony Wata

JAN 25 2006



H.B.NO. 3165

Report Title:

UH School of Social Work; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates \$1,320,000 to UH School of Social Work for: (1) \$1,000,000 for an endowed scholarship fund; (2) \$110,000 for one professor position as director of research for social work; and (3) \$210,000 for three assistant professor tenure track positions.

