

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTHY START.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii's Healthy Start began in July 1985 as a
2 demonstration child abuse program that supported at-risk
3 families with newborns through home visits. It is now a
4 statewide program that identifies and assesses high-risk
5 children at birth and monitors their growth and development with
6 home visits through the age of three. By identifying high-risk
7 families before abuse or neglect can begin and providing home
8 visits and services, Healthy Start helps these families continue
9 to steer clear from the risks of violence. Home visits by
10 trained paraprofessionals help reduce the risk of child
11 maltreatment and provide parents with information and access to
12 programs that foster child health and development, positive
13 parenting skills, and problem-solving techniques. In addition,
14 Healthy Start provides parents with links to medical care, job
15 training, housing applications, crisis intervention, and other
16 support.
17 Parents enrolled in Healthy Start also enjoy more positive
18 parent-child interactions, have a more positive attitude toward



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1 their children, and demonstrate better nonviolent discipline.

2 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
3 Healthy Start program so that it may continue to assist
4 high-risk families and prevent further incidences of child abuse
5 and neglect.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
9 Hawaii's Healthy Start program to continue to serve and support
10 high-risk families.

11 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
12 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.
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Report Title:

Healthy Start Program; Appropriation

Description:

Making an appropriation for Hawaii's Healthy Start program for continued service and support of high-risk families.

