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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as the state  
2 population increases, the health needs of Hawaii's residents  
3 also increase. The department of health provides important  
4 services, programs, and resources statewide to prevent disease  
5 and injury, promote health and well-being, and strengthen  
6 families and communities. As Hawaii's population continues to  
7 grow, the department needs to keep up with the increased demand  
8 for public health services and programs.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
10 department of health so it can continue to maintain its existing  
11 staff and hire additional professionals to provide health  
12 services and programs.

13 PART I

14 SECTION 2. The preschool developmental screening program  
15 under the department of health is the only statewide program  
16 that provides free developmental and behavioral screening, and  
17 coordinates follow-up services for three- to five-year-old



1 children. Studies have shown that sixteen per cent of children  
2 have disabilities, including speech and language delays,  
3 developmental or learning disabilities, and emotional or  
4 behavioral problems, but only thirty per cent of these children  
5 receive early detection before they enter school. Moreover, the  
6 percentage of mental health problems is higher among children  
7 within the at-risk category. Early developmental screening and  
8 follow-up services help children maximize their abilities and  
9 prevent new problems from occurring in the future.

10 The preschool developmental screening program staff  
11 provides systematic and effective early screening services to  
12 children who ordinarily would not have the resources or access  
13 to these services. In 1996, the source of preschool  
14 developmental screening program staff funding was converted from  
15 the state general fund to federal Title V funding after all  
16 state programs received state funding cuts. Currently, a Title  
17 V Block Grant funds preschool developmental screening program  
18 staff positions, but the level of funding has not kept up with  
19 inflation, payroll increases for collective bargaining, and  
20 increases in fringe benefit costs. The department of health's  
21 family health services division intends to implement its long  
22 term plan to delete direct service programs from Title V funding



1 to work within the constraints of its federal allocation.  
2 Converting the funding source of preschool developmental  
3 screening program staff positions back to the state general fund  
4 will allow the preschool developmental screening program to  
5 continue to provide vital developmental screening services to  
6 young children.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$260,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
11 2008-2009 for five permanent state-funded positions for a  
12 preschool developmental screening program to allow the program  
13 to continue to provide services to young children.

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

16 PART II

17 SECTION 4. The family health services division aims to  
18 ensure that all families, women, men, pregnant women, parents,  
19 infants, children, children with special health needs, and  
20 adolescents receive quality prevention and intervention services  
21 based on their individual needs. A registered nurse is needed  
22 to administer and coordinate the programmatic aspects of the



1 comprehensive primary care services program. There are clinical  
2 aspects related to the quality assurance reviews that require  
3 the knowledge and skills of a registered nurse. Currently, the  
4 family health services division hires an outside consultant for  
5 several of the clinical oversight activities for the department,  
6 but it is expensive and impracticable for the family health  
7 services division to continue to pay for an outside consultant  
8 that can only address a fraction of the responsibilities that a  
9 registered nurse on staff can provide.

10 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$60,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2008-2009 for the department of health family health services  
15 division to hire and maintain on its staff a permanent state-  
16 funded registered nurse V position to administer and coordinate  
17 the programmatic aspects of the comprehensive primary care  
18 services program.

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



PART III

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2 SECTION 6. The department of health has an important role  
3 in family violence prevention which continues to be an  
4 escalating and complex public health problem. Family violence  
5 includes domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence,  
6 bullying, stalking, and child abuse and neglect. The maternal  
7 and child health branch is responsible for comprehensive  
8 violence prevention programs that address protecting children  
9 and their families.

10 Currently, this branch needs a planner who will be  
11 responsible for building the family violence prevention agenda  
12 and engaging staff and stakeholders in this process. The  
13 planner will also be responsible for planning, implementing, and  
14 evaluating family violence prevention strategies and  
15 interventions; developing and supporting policies, regulations,  
16 and legislation; and initiating and supporting coalitions and  
17 partnerships that support these efforts.

18 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$41,500 or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
22 2008-2009 for the maternal and child health branch to hire and



1 maintain on its staff a qualified individual (planner IV  
2 position) to be responsible for building the family violence  
3 prevention agenda and engaging staff and stakeholders in the  
4 process.

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

7 PART IV

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Program Staff; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the preschool developmental screening program, the family health services division, and the maternal and child health branch to maintain existing staff and hiring additional staff members. (HB204 HD1)

