
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 subject
12 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-
- 7 of-the art interventions.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate or authorize
9 funds from temporary assistance for needy families to the
10 department of human services for the healthy start program,
11 including enhanced healthy start, to address budgetary
12 shortfalls and to implement recommended improvements to the
13 program.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated or authorized from
15 temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$,
16 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-
17 2008, and the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary
18 for fiscal year 2008-2009, to the department of human services
19 for the healthy start program, including enhanced healthy start,
20 for the hiring of a child development specialist or clinical
21 specialist and for provider training.



1 The sums appropriated or authorized shall be expended by
2 the department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Children; Healthy Start

Description:

Appropriates or authorizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds for the Healthy Start program, including Enhanced Healthy Start, hiring of additional staff, and training.
(SB1170 HD1)

