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# 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 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 \$3,200,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2007-2008, and the same sum, or so much thereof as may be  
18 necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, to the department of human  
19 services for the healthy start program, including enhanced  
20 healthy start, the hiring of a child development specialist or  
21 clinical specialist, and 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, 2007.



**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. (SD1)

