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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that while great strides  
2 have been made to protect infants and toddlers in motor vehicle  
3 crashes, preschoolers and young children under eight years of  
4 age remain at high risk of injury. Act 175, Session Laws of  
5 Hawaii 2006, amended Hawaii's child passenger restraints law to  
6 require a child four years of age or older, but less than eight  
7 years of age, and under certain weight and height minimums, to  
8 be properly secured in a child safety seat or booster car seat.  
9 The new law takes effect on January 1, 2007. The legislature  
10 further finds that the cost of purchasing booster car seats  
11 adversely impacts low-income families that may not have  
12 sufficient funds to afford booster car seats that range in price  
13 and can cost upwards of \$100.

14           The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition is a statewide,  
15 community-based organization that was established in 1991 to  
16 help prevent injuries to children and youth in Hawaii.  
17 Automobile safety is one of the organization's major focuses as



1 traffic related injuries continue to be the leading cause of  
2 death for Hawaii's children and youth.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to educate  
4 the public about the child passenger restraints law and to help  
5 subsidize the cost of child booster car seats for low-income  
6 families.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition  
8 shall:

- 9 (1) Launch an effective public education and media  
10 campaign to educate the public about Hawaii's child  
11 passenger restraints law;
- 12 (2) Design and implement a program to help subsidize the  
13 cost of booster car seats that meet federal motor  
14 vehicle safety standards at the time of their  
15 manufacture for low-income families whose combined  
16 family incomes do not exceed two hundred per cent of  
17 the federal poverty level for a family of applicable  
18 size as follows:
  - 19 (A) per cent of the cost if the combined  
20 family income is two hundred per cent of the  
21 federal poverty level or less;



1 (B) per cent of the cost if the combined  
2 family income is one hundred fifty per cent of  
3 the federal poverty level or less; and

4 (C) per cent of the cost if the combined  
5 family income is one hundred per cent of the  
6 federal poverty level or less; and

7 (3) Consult with the department of health regarding the  
8 design and implementation of the subsidy program.

9 (b) The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition may partner with  
10 agencies that provide services to low-income families to assist  
11 with disseminating information regarding the subsidy to the  
12 public and educating the public about Hawaii's child passenger  
13 restraints law.

14 SECTION 3. The department of health shall assist the Keiki  
15 Injury Prevention Coalition with the design and implementation  
16 of the subsidy program described in section 2.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and  
20 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
21 year 2008-2009, to educate the public about the child passenger



1 restraints law and to subsidize the cost of child booster car  
2 seats for low-income families pursuant to section 2.

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

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicle Safety; Child Passenger

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to educate the public about the child passenger restraints law and to help subsidize the cost of child booster car seats for low-income families. (SD1)

