

JAN 24 2007

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 preschool developmental screening program to continue
5 to provide vital developmental screening services to young
6 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,
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 family health services
7 division to continue to pay for an outside consultant that can
8 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.



1 PART III

2 SECTION 6. An effective injury prevention and control
3 program is an integral component of a comprehensive emergency
4 medical service program. Injury prevention is the first phase
5 of emergency medical care that deals with medical attention from
6 the onset of life threatening injury or illness until the
7 arrival at an appropriate medical facility.

8 The injury prevention and control program serves as the
9 department of health's focus for injury and violence prevention
10 information and initiatives statewide. Currently, this program
11 needs a planner who will be responsible for building the injury
12 and violence prevention agenda and engaging staff and
13 stakeholders in this process. The planner will also be
14 responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating injury
15 and violence prevention strategies and interventions; developing
16 and supporting policies, regulations, and legislation; and
17 initiating and supporting coalitions and partnerships that
18 support these efforts.

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



1 2008-2009, for the injury prevention and control program to hire
2 and maintain on its staff a qualified individual (planner IV
3 position) to be responsible for building the injury and violence
4 prevention agenda and engaging staff and stakeholders in the
5 process.

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

8 PART IV

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

10

INTRODUCED BY: *Franne Chun Dalland*

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Report Title:

Department of Health; Program Staff; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the preschool developmental screening program, the family health services division, and the injury prevention and control section to maintain existing staff and hiring additional staff members.

