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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 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;

17           (2) Focus on risk factors identified on the family stress  
18           checklist at assessment;



1 (3) Improve the ratio of child development specialists and  
2 clinical specialists to the number of families served;  
3 and

4 (4) Develop training to keep providers abreast of state-  
5 of-the art interventions.

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

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated or authorized from  
13 temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of  
14 \$1,660,409 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be  
16 necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to the department of human  
17 services for the healthy start program, including enhanced  
18 healthy start, for the hiring of a child development specialist  
19 or clinical specialist and for provider training.

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

22



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 27 2009



**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.

