

JAN 20 2010

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SHELTERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State needs to  
2 continue to fund domestic violence shelters in order to provide  
3 safe havens for women and their children made homeless due to  
4 domestic violence. The rate of domestic violence continues to  
5 increase, becoming one of the most significant social problems  
6 facing the State of Hawaii. According to the statistics  
7 provided by the Domestic Violence Clearing House and Legal  
8 Hotline, the Honolulu Police Department, the Sex Abuse Treatment  
9 Center, and the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic  
10 Violence, in a population of approximately one million people  
11 there is one death per month due to domestic violence.  
12 Statewide, shelters serve approximately 1,000 adults and 1,100  
13 children per year.

14           Statewide, the shelters are experiencing financial  
15 difficulties. Additionally, shelters are finding it more and  
16 more difficult to provide a high standard of service that will  
17 assist the consumer's move towards stabilization. In this



1 regard, shelters find that individual consumer needs have  
2 increased dramatically since 2004. Families and individuals  
3 currently entering shelter placement are affected by an  
4 inclusive menu of issues, including substance use and addiction,  
5 mental health, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, loss of  
6 income, lack of employable skills, lack of parenting skills, and  
7 lack of medical and dental care. The needs of the consumer have  
8 impacted service delivery. Domestic violence advocates must be  
9 thoroughly trained to meet the varying needs of the consumer  
10 base so that the consumer may move from shelter placement to a  
11 non-abusive living environment. In order for this to be  
12 accomplished, additional moneys must be allocated to meet the  
13 varying needs.

14 The legislature finds that without additional funding,  
15 statewide domestic violence shelters cannot meet the needs of  
16 the community.

17 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
18 domestic violence shelters.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to  
22 support domestic violence shelters statewide.



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

3           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

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**Report Title:**

Domestic Violence Shelters; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates general funds for domestic violence shelters.

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