

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that respite care
2 services provide necessary support for family caregivers of
3 children and adults with disabilities. The provision of respite
4 from the physical and emotional strain of caring for a family
5 member with a disability serves three purposes: (1) to prevent
6 placing the child or adult to whom care is provided in a
7 long-term care facility; (2) to keep families intact; and (3) to
8 prevent abuse and neglect.

9 The legislature enacted Act 324, Session Laws of Hawaii
10 1990, in order to meet the respite care needs of families in the
11 State who care for family members with disabilities. The Act
12 appropriated \$1,000,000 to the department of health to provide
13 support services and training to families and caregivers who
14 provide home-based care to individuals with disabilities, and
15 for the establishment and development of respite care services
16 for families providing home-based care for a family member who
17 is: (1) an infant or toddler three years of age or younger; (2)



1 an adult with a serious mental illness; (3) a child with a
2 serious emotional disturbance; (4) a child with a serious or
3 terminal illness; or (5) a child or adult with a developmental
4 disability.

5 Since 1990, the respite budget has been substantially
6 reduced, leaving insufficient funding to assist the population
7 targeted by Act 324. Further reduction of the funding available
8 for the provision of respite services would have an adverse
9 impact on family caregivers of individuals with disabilities.

10 The purpose of this Act is to reinstate funds that have
11 been depleted by budget reductions in order to provide continued
12 support for families of individuals with disabilities through
13 the implementation of the department of health respite services
14 program.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2010-2011 for implementation of a respite services program.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Respite Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of health to provide for continued respite services for family caregivers.

