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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOSTER CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. Foster providers, including provisionally-  
2 licensed and licensed resource family homes, group homes, and  
3 child-caring institutions, are responsible for the care and  
4 maintenance of children who are placed in their care. These  
5 providers incur significant cost in fulfilling this  
6 responsibility, which includes the cost of providing food,  
7 shelter, clothing, transportation, daily supervision, medical  
8 care, personal essentials, school supplies, and a gamut of other  
9 necessities and services.

10           The legislature finds that the department of human services  
11 renders foster care maintenance payments to foster providers to  
12 cover the costs incurred in providing such care and maintenance.  
13 However, foster care maintenance payments have not increased  
14 since 1990 and the monthly foster care maintenance basic board  
15 rate of \$529 is inadequate, falling significantly below the cost  
16 of adequate care and maintenance.



1           The purpose of this Act is to increase the minimum monthly  
2 foster care maintenance basic board rate and the maximum monthly  
3 difficulty of care rate.

4           SECTION 2. Effective July 1, 2014, the department of human  
5 services shall increase the monthly foster care maintenance  
6 basic board rate to no less than \$           for payments made by  
7 the department of human services directly to resource family  
8 homes, group homes, and child-caring institutions under sections  
9 17-1617-3 and 17-1617-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

10          SECTION 3. Effective July 1, 2014, the department of human  
11 services shall increase the maximum monthly difficulty of care  
12 rate to no less than \$           for payments made by the  
13 department of human services directly to resource family homes,  
14 group homes, and child-caring institutions under sections 17-  
15 1617-3 and 17-1617-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

16          SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
19 the purposes of this Act.

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



1 SECTION 5. The department of human services shall submit a  
2 report to the legislature on:

- 3 (1) The status and costs of implementing this Act;
- 4 (2) Any anticipated future costs related to implementing  
5 this Act; and

6 (3) The number of foster children affected by this Act,  
7 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
8 session of 2015.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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# H.B. NO. 1694

**Report Title:**

Foster Care; Monthly Board Rate; Appropriation

**Description:**

Increases the minimum monthly foster care basic board rate and foster care maximum difficulty of care rate. Requires Department of Human Services to report to the Legislature prior to 2015 Regular Session on implementation and cost. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2014.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

