
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 for nearly twenty-
2 five years the healthy start home visiting initiative has
3 reached out to families of newborns at risk of child
4 maltreatment and developmental delays and provided services for
5 families needing extra parenting support. However, general
6 funds for the program were eliminated in 2009, while services
7 for leeward Oahu and Hilo were maintained with temporary
8 assistance for needy families funds and are currently supported
9 by \$3,000,000 in tobacco settlement funds.

10 The legislature further finds that because the department
11 of health obtained federal funds and established a new home
12 visiting network under the maternal, infant, and early childhood
13 home visiting program, full restoration of the healthy start
14 initiative is not needed. However, there is a need for outreach
15 and intensive home visiting services to reduce toxic stress and
16 enhance protective factors against child abuse and neglect among
17 very high risk families. Based on projections from 2008, the
18 new target group for healthy start services is estimated at



1 1,374 high risk families. Families at very high risk are
2 defined as having family stress checklist scores of 40 and above
3 and, per the checklist validation study, have a 50 percent
4 likelihood of becoming a CPS case. The total budget needed to
5 serve this population is \$6,558,000, of which \$3,000,000 is
6 currently being funded through the tobacco settlement fund.

7 The purpose of this Act is to restore healthy start child
8 abuse prevention services for families of newborns at very high
9 risk of maltreatment and neglect across the State. This
10 investment in our most vulnerable infants is effective and
11 intended to reduce future expenditures for child welfare, early
12 intervention services, special education, substance abuse, and
13 mental health treatment services, as well as judiciary and
14 incarceration costs.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,558,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
18 healthy start child abuse prevention services; provided that any
19 unexpended and unencumbered balance of the appropriation shall
20 not lapse at the end of fiscal year 2014-2015 and shall lapse
21 instead on June 30, 2016.



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

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

4

INTRODUCED BY: Susan A. Belatti

 John M. Maggio

 G. J. E.

 Cindy Evans

JAN 16 2014



H.B. NO. 1798

Report Title:

Healthy Start; Child Abuse Prevention; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for healthy start child abuse prevention services. 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.

