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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Funding support allocated to the judiciary for  
2 domestic violence services was cut by \$570,000 in 2009 due to  
3 the fiscal downturn. Unfortunately, the demand for domestic  
4 violence services actually rises during difficult economic  
5 times, as evidenced by increases in hotline calls, shelter  
6 visits, and domestic violence-related crimes. Funding cuts that  
7 reduce available services may eliminate the one chance a  
8 domestic violence victim has to receive assistance and support,  
9 resulting in vulnerable individuals remaining trapped in violent  
10 situations and at risk of future harm, and stranding frightened  
11 and injured victims with nowhere to turn for help.

12           Although the State is now in a better financial position  
13 than it was in 2009, the same is not necessarily true for  
14 individual citizens. Declines in incomes and financial strain  
15 on families can trigger recession-related domestic violence. A  
16 study on domestic-violence homicides in Massachusetts found that  
17 "limited access to services for victims and unemployment for  
18 batterers" were key risk factors of abuse.



1           The services impacted by the 2009 cuts are vital ones for  
2 the health of the community and the State. Affected services  
3 include victims programs, batterers intervention programs, court  
4 outreach, support groups, crisis counseling, legal advocacy, and  
5 legal representation for victims. The legislature finds that  
6 since the State is in a better financial position than in 2009,  
7 funding for these critical programs should be restored.

8           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
9 purchase of service contracts for domestic violence programs.

10          SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
13 purchase of service contracts for domestic violence programs  
14 that provide services including victims programs, batterers  
15 intervention programs, court outreach, support groups, crisis  
16 counseling, legal advocacy, and legal representation for  
17 victims.

18          The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for  
19 the purposes of this Act.

20          SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Domestic Violence; Appropriation; Women's Legislative Caucus

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for purchase of service contracts for domestic violence programs. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB2035 HD1)

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

