

JAN 17 2014

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 \$500,000 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.



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

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S.B. NO. 2450

Report Title:

Domestic Violence Programs; Appropriation; Women's Legislative
Caucus

Description:

Appropriates funds for purchase of service contracts for
domestic violence programs. Effective July 1, 2014.

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