

JAN 23 2014

S.B. NO. 3034

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 human services has lost a large portion of its child welfare
3 services staff since 2009 and is still working to rebuild with
4 suitable experienced social workers. Twenty-one per cent of
5 child welfare services positions were eliminated during the
6 2009-2010 reduction in force. By nature, child welfare services
7 also experience attrition of its valuable workforce due to the
8 intense and difficult circumstances under which child protective
9 services employees work. As of December 2013, child welfare
10 services had sixty-four vacant positions.

11 The legislature also finds that the department will face a
12 critical shortage of experienced child welfare services workers
13 and leaders in the coming five years. As of 2012, thirty-six
14 per cent of the child welfare services workforce had twenty-one
15 or more years of experience. However, there is concern about
16 impending retirements as more than thirty-six per cent of staff
17 is fifty years of age or older, and almost thirty per cent of
18 staff is in their forties.



1 The legislature further finds that between 1998 and 2008,
2 the department of human services, child welfare services branch,
3 and the University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson school of social
4 work, successfully ran the Hawaii child welfare education
5 collaboration. The program admitted one hundred nine students,
6 one hundred of which completed the program and twenty-five of
7 which are still employed at the department in child welfare
8 services.

9 The Hawaii child welfare education collaboration was a
10 successful workforce recruitment and training program that
11 provided a continuous stream of qualified social workers to fill
12 vacant child welfare positions. Each year, full-time and part-
13 time students enter the program and receive a specialized child
14 welfare services curriculum, field integration seminars, and
15 practicum placement in child welfare settings. In return for
16 reimbursement of tuition, fees, and required educational
17 expenses, program participants agree to become employed at child
18 welfare services for a minimum of two years after graduation.
19 The Hawaii child welfare education collaboration is needed to
20 help fill the current child welfare vacancies and establish a
21 future workforce of experienced child welfare workers. The
22 program will not only help the department meet federal and state



1 statutory mandates to keep children safe and avoid financial
2 penalties, it will most importantly help keep Hawaii's children
3 safe and increase the level of services for Hawaii's families.

4 Accordingly, the intent of this Act is to build a workforce
5 of highly qualified social workers who will increase the level
6 of child welfare services in Hawaii and improve outcomes for
7 Hawaii's children.

8 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to the
9 University of Hawaii to restore the Hawaii child welfare
10 education collaboration between child welfare services and the
11 Myron B. Thompson school of social work.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$353,176 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
15 Hawaii child welfare education collaboration between the
16 department of human services, child welfare services branch and
17 the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson school of social
18 work.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

21



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

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Report Title:

Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration; University of Hawaii School of Social Work; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to restore the Hawaii child welfare education collaboration to assist with the recruitment and training of graduate students from the University of Hawaii school of social work for child welfare positions at the department of human services.

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