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# 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 branch staff since 2009 and is still working to rebuild  
4 with suitable, experienced social workers. Twenty-one per cent  
5 of the department's child welfare services branch positions were  
6 eliminated during the 2009-2010 reduction in force. By nature,  
7 the child welfare services branch also experiences attrition of  
8 its valuable workforce due to the intense and difficult  
9 circumstances under which child welfare services employees work.  
10 As of December 2013, the child welfare services branch had  
11 sixty-four vacant positions.

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



1 is fifty years of age or older, and almost thirty per cent of  
2 staff is in their forties.

3 The legislature further finds that between 1998 and 2008,  
4 the child welfare services branch of the department of human  
5 services and the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson school  
6 of social work successfully ran the Hawaii child welfare  
7 education collaboration. The Hawaii child welfare education  
8 collaboration was a successful workforce recruitment and  
9 training program that provided a continuous stream of qualified  
10 social workers to fill vacant child welfare positions. Each  
11 year, full-time and part-time students entered the program and  
12 received specialized child welfare services curricula, field  
13 integration seminars, and practicum placements in child welfare  
14 settings. The program admitted one hundred nine students, one  
15 hundred of whom completed the program and twenty-five of whom  
16 are still employed at the department in child welfare services  
17 positions.

18 The legislature finds that the restoration of the Hawaii  
19 child welfare education collaboration is needed to help fill the  
20 current child welfare services position vacancies and establish  
21 a future workforce of experienced child welfare workers. In  
22 return for reimbursement of tuition, fees, and required



1 educational expenses, participants of the collaboration would  
2 agree to become employed in the child welfare services branch  
3 for a minimum of three years after graduation. Restoration of  
4 the collaboration would help keep Hawaii's children safe,  
5 increase the level of services for Hawaii's families, and enable  
6 the State to meet federal and state authority mandates and avoid  
7 financial penalties.

8       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to build a  
9 workforce of highly qualified social workers who will increase  
10 the level of child welfare services in Hawaii and improve  
11 outcomes for Hawaii's children by making an appropriation to the  
12 University of Hawaii to restore the Hawaii child welfare  
13 education collaboration between the child welfare services  
14 branch of the department of human services and the University of  
15 Hawaii Myron B. Thompson school of social work.

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



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

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



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Restores the Hawaii child welfare education collaboration  
between the Department of Human Services and the University of  
Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work to assist with  
the recruitment and training of graduate students for positions  
with the child welfare service branch. Effective July 1, 2050.  
(SB3034 HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

