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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 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 welfare  
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 positions.

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, participants of the program, if restored pursuant to  
18 this Act, will agree to become employed in child welfare  
19 services for a minimum of three years after graduation. The  
20 Hawaii child welfare education collaboration is needed to help  
21 fill the current child welfare services position vacancies and  
22 establish a future workforce of experienced child welfare



1 workers. The program will not only help the department meet  
2 federal and state statutory mandates to keep children safe and  
3 avoid financial penalties, it will most importantly help keep  
4 Hawaii's children safe and increase the level of services for  
5 Hawaii's families.

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

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

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

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



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



**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 Myron B.  
Thompson school of social work for child welfare positions at  
the department of human services. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

