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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOSTER CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. Foster providers, including provisionally-  
2 licensed and licensed resource family homes, group homes, and  
3 child-caring institutions, are responsible for the care and  
4 maintenance of children who are placed in their care. These  
5 providers incur significant cost in fulfilling this  
6 responsibility, which includes the cost of providing food,  
7 shelter, clothing, transportation, daily supervision, medical  
8 care, personal essentials, school supplies, and a wide array of  
9 other necessities and services.

10           The legislature finds that the department of human services  
11 renders foster care maintenance payments to foster providers to  
12 cover costs incurred. However, even though funding was  
13 allocated last year to increase foster care maintenance payments  
14 for the first time in over two decades, the increased amount  
15 would still be inadequate and still falls significantly below  
16 the cost of adequate care and maintenance, considering the rate



1 of inflation. Based on inflation, the relative board rate would  
2 be \$970 in today's economy.

3 The purpose of this Act is to increase the minimum monthly  
4 foster care maintenance basic board rate and the maximum monthly  
5 difficulty of care rate.

6 SECTION 2. Effective July 1, 2015, the department of human  
7 services shall increase the monthly foster care maintenance  
8 basic board rate to no less than \$ for payments made by  
9 the department of human services directly to resource family  
10 homes, group homes, and child-caring institutions under sections  
11 17-1617-3 and 17-1617-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

12 SECTION 3. Effective July 1, 2015, the department of human  
13 services shall increase the maximum monthly difficulty of care  
14 rate to no less than \$ for payments made by the  
15 department of human services directly to resource family homes,  
16 group homes, and child-caring institutions under sections 17-  
17 1617-3 and 17-1617-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2016-2017 for the purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. The department of human services shall submit a  
6 report to the legislature on:

- 7 (1) The status and costs of implementing this Act;
- 8 (2) Any anticipated future costs related to implementing  
9 this Act; and
- 10 (3) The number of foster children affected by this Act;  
11 provided that for the purposes of this report a child  
12 shall be counted from the first day the child enters  
13 the foster care system,

14 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
15 session of 2016.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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# H.B. NO. 1382

**Report Title:**

Foster Care; Monthly Board Rate; Appropriation

**Description:**

Increases the minimum monthly foster care basic board rate and foster care maximum difficulty of care rate. Requires Department of Human Services to report to the Legislature prior to the 2016 Regular Session. Appropriates funds.

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

