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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROTECTING AGENCY POSITIONS FROM ELIMINATION  
REQUIREMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Protecting  
2 Agency Positions from Elimination Requirement Act" or "PAPER  
3 Act".

4           SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the department of  
5 human services and department of health are grossly  
6 understaffed. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, both  
7 departments have experienced an employee shortfall of thirty per  
8 cent of state-funded positions. During this same period, there  
9 has also been a vast increase in the number of residents who  
10 need health and human services. The department of human  
11 services and department of health are doing their best to  
12 provide services and recruit new employees. However, health  
13 care and program administrators are burned out and these  
14 positions are demanding and difficult to fill. If the  
15 legislature were to eliminate these budgeted positions and any



1 associated positions, these important departments would not be  
2 able to function.

3 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the elimination of  
4 funding for vacant positions in the department of human services  
5 and department of health for five years, or until the director  
6 of human services or director of health, as applicable, requests  
7 that the positions be eliminated, whichever occurs first.

8 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,  
9 funding for vacant positions in the department of human services  
10 and department of health shall not be eliminated for five years,  
11 or until the director of human services or director of health,  
12 as applicable, requests that the positions be eliminated,  
13 whichever occurs first.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 25 2023



# H.B. NO. 1417

**Report Title:**

Vacant Positions; Funding; Prohibition; DHS; DOH

**Description:**

Prohibits the elimination of funding for vacant positions in the department of human services and department of health for five years, or until the director of human services or director of health, as applicable, requests that the positions be eliminated, whichever occurs first.

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

