

ACT 209

S. B. NO. 1205

A Bill for an Act Relating to Child Services.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings. The legislature finds that:

- (1) Research in recent years has revealed that the years between birth and six are critical to a child's life since they are the formative years.
- (2) The pre-school years of a child are of such crucial importance that it places an enormous responsibility on each family to provide for an intellectually and socially stimulating environment in which the child may have the opportunity to develop to his fullest potential.
- (3) In today's society, social, economic and psychological exigencies placed on the family may result in fragmentation, discord, deprivation, as well as social and economic frustration, which may lead to an inability on the part of the family to provide full educational and developmental opportunities for the child.
- (4) Services to families and children are likewise fragmented due to the lack of a systems approach to data gathering, planning, and delivery of services in child development that includes related family services.
- (5) Presently, there is a nationwide shortage of sound educational and developmental child care services for all pre-school children with particular reference but not limited to the culturally disadvantaged child.
- (6) Nationally, the growing number of women, even those with young children, who seek employment outside the home are contributing to the problem of child care, such that the number of licensed available spaces for child care is 640,000 while the number of pre-school children whose mothers work part-time or full-time is now estimated at five million. For the State of Hawaii there are presently some 8,000 spaces available in licensed day care centers for a pre-school population of 70,811 established by the 1970 census survey.
- (7) The State of Hawaii has the highest percentage of women in the labor force in the nation as well as the highest percentage of working mothers in the nation.
- (8) Data compiled in recent years on arrangements made by parents on their own for their children revealed a number of children being cared for by siblings only a few years older; a number of children on their own with or without keys to their homes; with the rest either in day care centers or in homes of friends and relatives.

In view of these facts, the legislature finds that there is a crucial and definite need to assist the family, especially the family with working mothers or the family in a culturally deprived socio-economic environment, in the educational and social development of the child during the critically important pre-school years. The legislature further finds that it is within their concern and responsibility to provide the best opportunities for the children of the State to develop their fullest potential, thereby contributing to the total well-being of the State. Further, the legislature finds child care programs, properly planned and structured, can effectively assist in meeting some of the needs of pre-school children which the family may be unable to provide.

The purpose of this Act is to develop a systems approach to comprehensive, coordinated planning and delivery of child development services for children, birth through age 12, by maximizing the utilization of existing facilities,

services, and fiscal resources of federal, state, county, and private sources.

SECTION 2. Chapter 581, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"PART . STATEWIDE PLANNING AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 581- Definitions. As used in this part:

- (1) "Childhood" means that period of life from 0-12 in which the child's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical qualities are in the formative stages and in which the foundation for his future development is established.
- (2) "Comprehensive childhood development services" includes, but is not limited to, the following program components: physical health services, mental health services, diagnostic services, child care services both in the home and outside, services for handicapped children, parent education, preschool education, social services, and transportation services necessary to make the programs effective and accessible.
- (3) "Family services" means those services directed toward the parents or guardians of children which are designed to strengthen the family unit and to assist the parents in providing for sound childhood development.
- (4) "Pilot program" includes any program, service, or activity designed to experiment with alternative models of service delivery or models to fill determined service gaps.
- (5) "Systems approach" means the necessary structure, process, and procedures which will enable the most efficient and effective utilization of resources to meet the determined objectives.

Sec. 581- Statewide planning and systems development. (a) There shall be a statewide planning and systems development program which shall develop systems for child services in accordance with the following priorities:

- (1) Children—birth to 4 years of age;
 - (2) Children—5 years to 8 years of age;
 - (3) Children—9 years to 12 years of age.
- (b) The development of systems for child services delivery shall include:
- (1) Determining the support and delivery of needed services including the identification of service gaps which may call for the support of pilot programs as well as the enhancement of existing programs;
 - (2) Determining how needed resources shall be coordinated to meet local needs; and
 - (3) Planning the system to permit coordinated delivery of services.

Emphasis shall be on preventative measures designed to provide services which will enable children to develop to the maximum level the physical, mental, and social potentials which they possess, to strengthen to the role of the family as the first and most fundamental influence on child development, and to provide improved services to child development and family services through a coordinated partnership between family, federal, state, county, and private resources.

Sec. 581- Responsibility for development. (a) For purposes of comprehensive statewide planning and child development services systems development, the coordinated child care committee shall make policy and enable implementation by negotiating working agreements and policy understandings among its membership.

(b) The coordinated child care committee shall:

- (1) Develop a statewide plan to meet children's needs; subject however, to the approval of the commission on children and youth and the governor. Specifically, the committee shall design, develop, and review annually a comprehensive, statewide, community-based program to meet children's needs, which shall be responsive to county and neighborhood needs and priorities;
- (2) Establish a comprehensive child development services information system;
- (3) Receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of the State such information as will enable the coordinated child care committee and staff properly to exercise their powers and perform their duties;
- (4) Coordinate the delivery of services by agencies operating programs which include components of the State's comprehensive child development and related family services plan;
- (5) Provide professional and technical assistance to state and local coordinated child care committees, and consult with agencies and individuals regarding children's services;
- (6) Promote and provide for, but not necessarily conduct, the evaluation of all childhood development and related family service programs and facilities pursuant to this part;
- (7) Advise the governor on the availability and expenditure of all state and federal funds utilized for child development and related family service programs and facilities pursuant to this part;
- (8) Apply for, receive, and administer funds which are, or may become, available under federal programs or from local government or private donors pertaining to child development, including funds for administration, demonstration projects, construction, or acquisition of facilities, training, technical assistance, research, planning and evaluation;
- (9) Serve, when applicable, as the sponsoring state agency for child and family programs which are, or may be, instituted by the federal government;
- (10) Establish criteria and recommend standards for approval of local public and private programs and facilities for comprehensive early childhood development and family services;
- (11) Develop a program to inform the public concerning comprehensive child development and related family services;
- (12) Assist children and their parents or guardians in obtaining the assistance and services which the child needs and which are provided by state and local agencies."

SECTION 3. Section 581-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to

read as follows:

“Sec. 581-2 Duties of the commission; reports. (a) The commission of children and youth shall form two subcommittees to serve:

- (1) Children from birth through age twelve to be known as the coordinated child care committee; and
 - (2) Youths from ages thirteen through twenty-four, to be known as the action committee for young adults.
- (b) The commission shall:
- (1) Study the facts concerning the needs of children and youth in the State through action research studies, such research to be carried on whenever possible through the departments or agencies of the state and county governments responsible for providing services to children and youth. When such research cannot be done within such established agencies, it shall be carried out by public or private organizations capable of conducting action research, or the commission may recommend action research studies to its subcommittees.
 - (2) Review legislation pertaining to children and youth and appropriations made for services in their behalf in such fields as health, child development, social service, education, recreation, child labor, family courts, probation and parole service, and detention and correctional facilities, and consider and present revisions and additions needed and report to the governor and to the legislature regarding such legislation.
 - (3) Appraise the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of all services for children and youth within the State.
 - (4) Ascertain the facts concerning the operations and the operating policies, affecting children and youth, of all state and county departments and agencies responsible for providing services for children and youth, including, without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, the department of health, the department of social services and housing, the department of education, the department of labor and industrial relations, the police departments, the family and other courts and the probation departments and detention facilities thereof, and, report such facts and the commission's recommendations to the governor and to the legislature. The executive heads of all such departments and agencies shall make available to the commission such information as the commission deems necessary for the effective discharge of its duties under this chapter.
 - (5) Maintain contacts with local, state, and federal officials and agencies concerned with planning for children and youth.
 - (6) Encourage and foster local community action in behalf of children and youth through the local county committees.
 - (7) Promote plans and programs for prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and conducive to child development.
 - (8) Cooperate with the national commission on children and youth and arrange for the participation by representatives of the State in the decennial White House Conference on children and youth.

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(c) The subcommittees shall:

- (1) Sponsor, stimulate, organize, and, if necessary, conduct action research and demonstration projects in support of child and youth development and prevention and control of juvenile delinquency.
- (2) Develop plans and integrate planning for services and programs, relative to children and young adults.
- (3) Coordinate and mobilize resources, both public and private, which address problems and enhance opportunities for children and young adults.”

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of Statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 31, 1973.)

*Edited accordingly.