

**ACT 79**

**H.B. NO. 1877**

**A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Social Services and Housing.  
*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:***

**SECTION 1. Section 26-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:**

**“Sec. 26-14 Department of social services and housing.** The department of social services and housing shall be headed by a single executive to be known as the director of social services.

There shall be within the department of social services and housing a commission to be known as the board of social services which shall sit in an advisory capacity to the director of social services on matters within the jurisdiction of the department of social services and housing. The board shall consist of nine members, one from each senatorial district and three at large, and the director of health as an ex officio nonvoting member.

There shall also be within the department a commission to be known as the board of vocational rehabilitation which shall sit in an advisory capacity to the head of that division charged with the administration of vocational rehabilitation laws and allied services. The board shall consist of eleven members, one from each judicial circuit and four at large, with the directors of health and labor, and the superintendent of education, as ex officio voting members.

The department shall administer programs designed to improve the social well-being and productivity of the people of the State. Without limit to the generality of the foregoing, the department shall concern itself with the problems of human behavior, adjustment, and daily living through the administration of programs of family, child and adult welfare, economic assistance (including costs of medical care), rehabilitation toward self-care and support, delinquency prevention and control, treatment and rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders, public housing, and other related programs as provided by law.

The Hawaii housing authority, as now constituted by chapter 356 shall be a constituent corporate unit of the department of social services and housing with the director of social services as an additional commissioner, ex officio, of the housing authority, serving for a term consistent with his appointment. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, but subject to the administrative control of the director of social services, the functions, duties, and powers of the housing authority, as heretofore provided by law, shall be vested in the Hawaii housing authority.

The board of paroles and pardons is placed within the department of social services and housing for administrative purposes. The functions, duties, and powers, subject to the administrative control of the director of social services, and the composition of the board shall be as heretofore provided by law.

The functions and authority heretofore exercised by the department of public welfare, the department of institutions (except for Waimano home and the state hospital transferred to the department of health), the board of prison inspectors, the bureau of sight conservation and work with the blind (except for the transcription services program transferred to the department of education), the council on veterans' affairs, and any other agency of the state or county governments with respect to the assistance and care of the indigent and medically indigent as heretofore constituted are transferred to the department of social services and housing established by this chapter.”

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**SECTION 2.** 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 3.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 10, 1975.)

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\*Edited accordingly.