

ACT 309

H.B. NO. 2054

A Bill for an Act Relating to Children.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children require substantial care, attention, support, and nurturing to enable them to fully develop their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual capacities. Although quality care of children is

of critical importance, there are many obstacles to providing such care. The first of these is that few parents have adequate background in parenting and are often overwhelmed. The second is the fact that the majority of mothers in Hawaii are employed outside the home, necessitating child care arrangements beyond what they are able to do themselves.

One result of these complexities of modern society is child abuse and neglect. In this regard, primary prevention is widely recognized as the most effective and least costly approach to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. In recent years two innovative and apparently successful preventive approaches have been developed in other jurisdictions.

The first approach involves parent education classes to teach effective parenting, such as has been done in Minnesota. The classes apparently reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect by helping parents and other caregivers cope with the stresses of child rearing and linking them with community resources.

The second approach is that of a parent information telephone line which provides a free source of information about child care, development, discipline, and the growth of children, for any parent or individual who calls.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to establish a parent information telephone line and a parenting education demonstration project.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1988-1989, for a parent information telephone line and a parenting education demonstration project. The parent education project shall be based on a model similar to that established in Minnesota and shall be a primary prevention approach emphasizing positive parenting techniques. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1988.

(Approved June 13, 1988.)