

ACT 241

S.B. NO. 3307

A Bill for an Act Relating to Governmental Assistance.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the steady decline of the sugar industry has threatened the economic stability of the entire Hilo-Hamakua coast on the island of Hawaii. As a result, the social structure of the community in this area is at risk of collapse. The residents of the Hilo-Hamakua coast, as well as people throughout Hawaii, have an urgent interest in stabilizing the economic and social conditions of the Hilo-Hamakua region.

The State has assumed a proactive role in assisting the Hilo-Hamakua community. For example, the legislature provided a state loan guarantee that ensured a final harvest at Hamakua Sugar Company. The legislature also designated the entire Hamakua planning region as a community development district, thereby authorizing the replanning, renewal, and redevelopment of the region by the Hawaii community development authority.

The residents of the Hilo-Hamakua coast have themselves assumed much of the responsibility for determining their own future. They have organized to develop programs and projects that will help them shape their communities. For example, the Hamakua/North Hilo Agricultural Cooperative has been formed to help start up a variety of alternative crops to be grown on lands now planted in sugar. The Employment and Training Task Force has created a number of training programs which have been successful in placing people in jobs.

In addition, the Hamakua Resource Center serves as a source of information about training opportunities, educational programs, health insurance, and other matters. The Hamakua Housing Corporation, a private non-profit effort, has been formed to ensure that those living in employee housing are the ones to make decisions about housing. The Hamakua Medical Center, which in the past was heavily subsidized by the Hamakua Sugar Company, has been transformed into an independent, private non-profit entity with tax-exempt status.

These examples demonstrate that in this time of crisis the community has made significant strides to mobilize its internal resources to develop structures to replace the vacuum created by the departure of sugar. However, the problems to be overcome are monumental. As such, the community has asked for assistance in a variety of specific areas. The purpose of this Act is to provide additional resources to assist the Hilo-Hamakua community in its effort to restructure its economy and support its social structure.

SECTION 2. Act 311, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993, is amended by amending Section 6 to read as follows:

“SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal [year] years 1993-1994[,] and 1994-1995, to carry out the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of [business, economic development, and tourism] budget and finance for purposes of this Act. The sum of \$472,500 may be used for the following purposes:

- (1) Resource/Family/Youth centers with outreach (5.50 FTE) workers and counseling services; and development of a child care services system;
- (2) Newspaper and community bulletin board;
- (3) Agricultural infrastructure development;
- (4) Aquaculture and community-based agricultural programs;
- (5) Primary health care center subsidies;
- (6) Transitional support employment and training for dislocated workers; and
- (7) Hamakua community liaison position.”

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1994-1995, to assist the Hilo-Hamakua community for the following purposes:

- (1) Resource/Family/Youth centers with outreach (5.50 FTE) workers and counseling services; and development of a child care services system;
- (2) Newspaper and community bulletin board;

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- (3) Agricultural infrastructure development;
- (4) Aquaculture and community-based agricultural programs;
- (5) Primary health care center subsidies;
- (6) Transitional support employment and training for dislocated workers;  
and
- (7) Hamakua community liaison position.

SECTION 4. The sums appropriated in section 3 of this Act shall be expended by the department of budget and finance for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 1994.

(Approved June 22, 1994.)