

ACT 108

H.B. NO. 2778

A Bill for an Act Making an Emergency Appropriation for Legal Services for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Individual Claims Review.

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

SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Act 328, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, appropriated \$216,182 in general funds to the department of the attorney general to defend the department of Hawaiian home lands' interests in the review of individual claims brought pursuant to chapter 674, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for only eight months of fiscal year 1997-1998.

A critical funding emergency exists. The Hawaiian home lands trust individual claims review panel ("Panel"), the body which receives and reviews claims of individual native Hawaiian beneficiaries for actual damages, is authorized to continue to process claims until December 31, 1999. The Hawaiian claims office, of which the Panel is a part, is funded until June 30, 1998. However, the appropriation for the department of the attorney general will be completely expended by the end of February 1998. Without additional appropriations from the general fund, the department of the attorney general will be unable to continue its defense of the department of Hawaiian home lands' interests in the claims review process after February 28, 1998.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional general fund moneys to allow the department of the attorney general to continue its legal representation of the department of Hawaiian home lands under chapter 674, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the period March 1, 1998, through June 30, 1998.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$94,216, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1997-1998, for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of the attorney general.

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

(Approved June 3, 1998.)