

JAN 21 2011

S.B. NO. 195

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COUPLES ON THE BRINK PROJECT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The University of Minnesota recently began to
2 offer divorce reconciliation services to couples considering
3 dissolving their marriages. The program is offered pursuant to
4 statutory enactment, entitled "Minnesota couples on the brink
5 project". The new project allows couples an "offramp" if they
6 find themselves on the road to divorce, by offering short-term
7 coaching on a voluntary basis to help the husband and wife
8 decide whether they really want to split. If a couple decides
9 to rebuild the marriage, the project will help craft a
10 reconciliation plan. The intent of the project is to facilitate
11 reconciliation rather than divorce.

12 The legislature finds that a similar program should be
13 established in Hawaii to offer reconciliation opportunities for
14 couples considering divorce.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:

16 (1) Establish a couples on the brink project under the
17 University of Hawaii; and



1 (2) Fund the project by creating a special fund and
2 increasing the marriage license fee.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "§304A-A Hawaii couples on the brink project. (a) There
7 is established the Hawaii couples on the brink project under the
8 University of Hawaii for administrative purposes. Within the
9 availability of funding, the board of regents shall develop and
10 implement a Hawaii couples on the brink project as provided in
11 subsection (b). The project shall be funded from deposits into
12 the Hawaii couples on the brink project special fund,
13 established under section 304A-B.

14 (b) The Hawaii couples on the brink project shall:

15 (1) Develop, evaluate, and disseminate best practices for
16 promoting successful reconciliation between married
17 persons who are considering divorce or who have
18 commenced divorce proceedings and who choose to pursue
19 reconciliation; and

20 (2) Provide counseling services consistent with paragraph
21 (1); provided that counseling services may be offered
22 through a contract with qualified persons or entities.



1 (c) The University of Hawaii shall report annually to the
2 legislature on the progress of the Hawaii couples on the brink
3 project, including the number of couples served and the number
4 of reconciled couples.

5 **§304A-B Hawaii couples on the brink project special fund.**

6 There is established a Hawaii couples on the brink project
7 special fund, to be administered by the University of Hawaii.
8 The purpose of the fund shall be to facilitate the Hawaii
9 couples on the brink project under section 304A-A.

10 Moneys collected from a portion of the marriage license fee
11 under section 572-5 shall be deposited into the Hawaii couples
12 on the brink project special fund. All expenditures from the
13 fund shall be subject to legislative appropriation."

14 SECTION 3. Section 572-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

16 "(a) The department of health shall appoint, and at its
17 pleasure remove, one or more suitable persons as agents
18 authorized to grant marriage licenses under this chapter in each
19 judicial circuit. The agents may issue licenses from any state
20 facility when deemed necessary by the director. Any agent
21 appointed under this subsection and receiving an application for
22 a marriage license shall collect from the applicant for the



1 license [~~\$60~~] \$65, of which the agent, except those provided
2 for in subsection (b), shall retain \$9 for the agent's benefit
3 and compensation and shall remit [~~\$51~~] \$56 to the director of
4 health. Upon the receipt of remittances under this subsection,
5 the director of health shall deposit:

- 6 (1) \$32 for each license issued to the credit of the
7 general fund of the State;
- 8 (2) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the
9 spouse and child abuse special account established
10 under section 346-7.5;
- 11 (3) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the
12 spouse and child abuse special account established
13 under section 601-3.6; ~~and~~
- 14 (4) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth
15 defects special fund established under section
16 321-426~~[-]~~; and
- 17 (5) \$5 for each license issued to the credit of the Hawaii
18 couples on the brink project special fund established
19 under section 304A-B.

20 (b) The department may appoint, as regular employees under
21 the civil service and classification laws, the number of
22 suitable persons as agents authorized to grant marriage licenses



1 for whom provision has been made in the general appropriation
2 act. In the case of these agents, the full amount collected
3 from applicants shall be remitted to the director of health.
4 Upon the receipt of remittances under this subsection, the
5 director of health shall deposit:

- 6 (1) \$41 for each license issued to the credit of the
7 general fund of the State;
- 8 (2) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the
9 spouse and child abuse special account established
10 under section 346-7.5;
- 11 (3) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the
12 spouse and child abuse special account established
13 under section 601-3.6; [and]
- 14 (4) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth
15 defects special fund established under section
16 321-426 [-]; and
- 17 (5) \$5 for each license issued to the credit of the Hawaii
18 couples on the brink project special fund established
19 under section 304A-B."

20 SECTION 4. In codifying this Act the revisor shall
21 substitute appropriate section numbers for the letter
22 designations used in place of section numbers.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii couples
 2 on the brink project special fund established under section
 3 304A-B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so
 4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012
 5 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for
 6 fiscal year 2012-2013 for purposes of the Hawaii couples on the
 7 brink project under section 304A-A.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 9 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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[Signature]



Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Couples on the Brink Project;
Appropriation.

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii couples on the brink project under the University of Hawaii to promote marriage reconciliation. Raises marriage license fee. Establishes special fund. Makes appropriation.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

