

JAN 29 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into
2 law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, also
3 known as the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148). The Affordable
4 Care Act added section 511 to title V of the Social Security Act
5 to create the maternal, infant, and early childhood home
6 visiting program grant to support development and implementation
7 of evidence-based home visiting program models by states and
8 other eligible entities.

9 Home visiting is a prevention strategy used by states and
10 communities to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable
11 families of newborns who are at risk for adverse health, safety,
12 and developmental outcomes. Over recent decades, research on
13 early brain development, including the impact of trauma on the
14 developing brain, has pointed to the need for early intervention
15 and prevention to avert trauma and promote positive early brain
16 development and learning. The director of the maternal, infant,
17 and early childhood home visiting program has emphasized the



1 need to reduce toxic stress and promote nurturing relationships
2 as priority interventions for home visiting in the first one
3 thousand days of life. Early investments in home visiting
4 programs have been shown to reduce child abuse and neglect, the
5 associated costs of foster care placements, emergency room
6 visits, hospitalizations, and unintended pregnancies. Home
7 visiting programs have also been shown to improve child
8 development, reduce the need for special education services, and
9 avert other more costly interventions.

10 In 2013, the legislature established the Hawaii home
11 visiting program. The program is responsible for statewide
12 hospital-based screening and home visiting services to identify
13 families with newborns that may have health or safety concerns.
14 High risk families are referred to home visiting service
15 providers who deliver evidence-based services to address the
16 family's needs.

17 The purpose of this Act is to maintain funding for the
18 Hawaii home visiting initiative and to ensure continuation of
19 home visiting services in the priority high-risk neighborhoods
20 of the Waianae coast, Kalihi, downtown Honolulu, Hilo-Puna on



1 the island of Hawaii, and high risk areas of Maui, Molokai,
2 Lanai, Kauai, and West Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2016-2017 to maintain funding for the Hawaii home visiting
8 initiative and to ensure continuation of home visiting services
9 in the priority high-risk neighborhoods of the Waianae coast,
10 Kalihi, downtown Honolulu, Hilo-Puna on the island of Hawaii,
11 and high risk areas of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kauai, and West
12 Hawaii.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii tobacco
16 settlement special fund the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much thereof
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum
18 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017
19 to maintain funding for the Hawaii home visiting initiative and
20 to ensure continuation of home visiting services in the priority
21 high-risk neighborhoods of the Waianae coast, Kalihi, downtown



S.B. NO. 1245

1 Honolulu, Hilo-Puna on the island of Hawaii, and high risk areas
2 of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kauai, and West Hawaii.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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S.B. NO. 1245

Report Title:

Hawaii Home Visiting Program; Infants; Healthcare; Families; Children; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to continue administration of the Hawaii home visiting program, a hospital-based early identification designed to enhance health and safety outcomes and prevent child abuse and neglect, and ensure continuation of home visiting services in certain priority high-risk neighborhoods.

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