

ACT 299

S. B. 998.

A Bill for an Act Establishing a Progressive Neighborhoods Program and Making Appropriations Therefor.

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

**PART I
FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Progressive Neighborhoods Act".

SECTION 2. Findings and purpose. A number of distinct neighborhoods in the State, primarily on the island of Oahu, lag so far behind the remainder of the community in economic, health, social, and physical standards as to hamper the general welfare of the entire State. Substandard neighborhood factors in these areas tend not to appear singly but in multiples and have the effect of reenforcing one another so that composite problem areas result. It is an urgent matter and in the general welfare of the State to take remedial action in neighborhoods where consistent low family income, chronic unemployment, dilapidated and overcrowded housing, low educational achievement, high rates of ill health and illegitimacy, major incidence of adult and juvenile offenses, and economic assistance to families and needy children occur one with the other in severe degrees. It is further evident that as the standards of the State as a whole rise these neighborhoods tend to fall farther behind even though they may make modest improvements.

It is the purpose of this Act to initiate on an exemplary and demonstration basis remedial action to alleviate conditions contributing to a composite problem area by concerted program to supplement public resources

in such an area and to attempt new solutions through reallocation of present resources. Demonstration of the utility of additional resources or the better use of traditional resources in a neighborhood will provide an exemplary focus for approaches to socio-economic problems in other neighborhoods and environments.

PART II
PROGRESSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS TASK FORCE

SECTION 3. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish a working-study group of experts in the problems facing multiproblem neighborhoods to analyze the basic deficiencies which contribute to socio-economic dysfunctioning in distinct neighborhoods. The task force will attempt to uncover core problem factors, establish alternative means for their solution, and set down practical expectations for the use and better use of existing and incremental additional public resources for problem solution. The task force will include public administrators who deal with specific parts of social problems in target neighborhoods who will be able to assess the utility of fragmented functional approaches which have been traditional to meeting expectations. The task force will include residents of the neighborhood to articulate problems and needs. And the task force will include consultant services to deal in depth with the system within which the multiple problems exist.

SECTION 4. Task force established. There is established a progressive neighborhoods task force for the purpose of this part.

(a) The task force shall be appointed by the governor and shall consist of the director of the department of social services, the director of the department of health, the superintendent of education, the director of the department of labor and industrial relations, a judge of the family court, the president of the University of Hawaii, the director of the Hawaii office of economic opportunity and three members of the general community or their representatives. The task force shall also include three citizens of the target area. The governor shall appoint an ex officio chairman.

(b) The task force shall meet at least twice a month while studying any particular target neighborhood; provided that the citizen members of the task force shall be compensated in an amount not to exceed \$20 per meeting attended; and provided further, that the task force shall undertake its endeavors in one neighborhood at a time in phases and that phase one shall be restricted to the Nanakuli-Waianae area.

(c) The task force shall be responsible for initiating such studies and experimental programs as are necessary to identify the major core problems contributing to multiproblem neighborhoods, to propose and institute interventions into problem cycles, to evaluate the effectiveness of present or innovated interventions aimed at problem modification, and to assay the cost-benefits of different systems of intervention; for investigating various proposals for the possible reallocation and realignment of agency approaches and programs and making such recommendations to the governor, the chief

justice, and the legislature as are indicated to increase problem modification in target neighborhoods and program effectiveness or to make possible new programs of higher indicated potential; and for piloting a program in career development in education, social work, community organization, health services and the like for the purpose of final remedy of progressive neighborhoods problems.

(d) The task force shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with chapter 6C, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, for the purpose of this part.

(e) The powers and duties of the task force shall be restricted by statutory law except as provided herein.

SECTION 5. Annual report. The task force shall make an annual report to the governor and the legislature, including recommendations to further the purposes of this Act.

PART III MODEL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

SECTION 6. Purpose. The purpose of this part is twofold: (a) to allow for the more effective use of education programs in multiproblem neighborhoods and (b) to provide for exemplary and demonstration school programs in progressive neighborhoods which could serve as models for other neighborhoods and schools. The educational needs in multiproblem neighborhoods differ from other neighborhoods both as to substance and method: accentuation of verbal skills, cultural enrichment, individualized help, and classroom methods which are meaningful to the values of the neighborhood appear to be the distinctive and prevalent needs for progressive neighborhoods. A further consequence of the gap between cultural values of the school and the neighborhood is the fact that the school is not a positive factor in the lives of a good number of the families in the neighborhood. Schools must be more attuned to the total needs and values of these neighborhoods and model schools must demonstrate how to adjust the classroom and curriculum systems to the neighborhood environment.

SECTION 7. Authorization. The department of education is authorized to make Nanaikapono school a model school within the meaning of this part. For this purpose, the department shall conduct a two week workshop for new teachers at Nanaikapono school prior to the beginning of the 1967-1968 school year for sensitivity training and cultural adjustment purposes. The department shall also design a community centered multi-purpose library for public and school use at the proposed Nanakuli high school.

PART IV NANAKULI CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT

SECTION 8. Purpose. Public Law 89-97 provides grants to assist in the provision of comprehensive health service for children and youth in areas with a concentration of low-income families. This federal aid can offer screening, diagnosis, preventive services, treatment, correction of defects and

after care, both medical and dental. Projects under this grant are expected to care for the comprehensive and continuous health problems of the child population, both medical and dental, physical and emotional; such projects lend themselves well to strengthening neighborhoods with multiproblems.

SECTION 9. Authorization. The department of health is authorized to establish a Nanakuli children and youth project to provide comprehensive health services for approximately two thousand children and youths in the Nanakuli area.

**PART V
COMMUNITY PHYSICIAN PROGRAM**

SECTION 10. Purpose. Multiproblem neighborhoods have severe health needs and the Waianae-Nanakuli area in particular is unable to attract a resident physician even though the area supports some 30,000 residents and has serious health services needs. It is apparent that the economic hardships prevalent in these communities make it impossible to support a resident physician without public support. It is the purpose of this part to provide for a contractual guarantee of income for a resident physician for the Waianae-Nanakuli community to serve as a model for possible expansion to other progressive neighborhoods.

SECTION 11. Waianae-Nanakuli community physician contracts. The department of health is authorized to enter into an agreement and contract with physicians licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Hawaii for the purpose of providing medical services to the Waianae-Nanakuli community, such an agreement or contract to provide for the following:

- (1) A guarantee of an annual gross income to a physician of not more than \$25,000 from all sources, including any subsidy provided by this part, and which shall be subject to taxation to the extent provided for in chapter 121, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955; and
- (2) That the physician take up and be a permanent resident of the Waianae-Nanakuli community; and
- (3) That the State of Hawaii pay annually a subsidy to the physician to the extent that his annual gross income from all sources, including but not limited to medical payments made by the department of social services, private fees, and all other taxable income as defined by chapter 121, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, does not amount to more than \$25,000.

**PART VI
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

SECTION 12. Purpose. Multiproblem neighborhoods have a high degree of physical deterioration in housing and other physical facilities due not so much to lack of motivation on the part of the residents but to the lack of capital and materials for home and community facilities improvements. The availability of materials and capital for self-help improvement projects to non-profit organizations and groups will help to improve both

the physical and social character of multiproblem neighborhoods by giving means and goals for self-improvement. The purpose of this part is to provide small capital grants to non-profit self-help groups in multiproblem neighborhoods to improve the physical and social character of such communities.

SECTION 13. Improvement grants. The director of finance shall authorize community social agencies, trusts, or churches to administer grants to self-help groups resident in multiproblem neighborhoods for the purposes of providing capital funds for materials or financing for home or community facilities improvements. The director of finance may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to protect the integrity of the State's interest in providing for the purposes of this part. The funds authorized under this part shall first be used on a demonstration basis for the Waianae-Nanakuli community.

PART VII DETACHED WORKER PROGRAM

SECTION 14. Purpose. The cultural environment of multiproblem neighborhoods is often such that traditional approaches to strengthening community identification and participation through public programs such as youth groups and recreation are inadequate to making real contributions to the social life of the community. It is necessary to reach out to the youth in these neighborhoods rather than expecting them to come to the program. It is the purpose of this part to provide for a detached social worker to perform community organization work in a progressive neighborhood on a demonstration basis to stimulate participation by the residents in organized activities of social benefit, particularly in recreation programs.

SECTION 15. Authorization. The department of social services is authorized to establish a social worker position, subject to chapters 3 and 4, RLH 1955, for the purposes of this part; provided that this position shall be assigned to the Waianae-Nanakuli area on a detached basis, primarily for the purpose of community organization work and strengthening participation by the children and youth of the area in recreational programs.

SECTION 16. The department of accounting and general services is authorized to contract with the city and county of Honolulu for a sum not to exceed \$25,000 for a CIP to enclose the pavilion at Nanakuli recreational center to provide a multipurpose recreational building.

SECTION 17. There is appropriated to the governor's office, out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$125,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of this Act, provided that other available funds shall be used first to the maximum extent possible including moneys authorized by Act 4, Session Laws of Hawaii 1965, Public Law 89-10, Economic Opportunity Act, and Public Law 89-97; and provided further, that the funds shall be expended in cooperation with the progressive neighborhood task force created under part II of this Act.

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SECTION 18. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1967, except that part II shall take effect upon approval of this Act.

(Approved June 13, 1967.)