

A Bill for an Act Relating to Hemophilia.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hemophilia, a hereditary genetic disease characterized by delayed blood clotting, is a catastrophic disease for which, however, there is effective treatment enabling sufferers of the disease to lead normal, productive lives. The costs of such treatment, however, impose a heavy financial burden on individuals afflicted with the disease and their families. According to a study by the department of health, medical expenses averaged \$9,683 per person annually between 1976 and 1980. Health insurance covers only a part of the costs of the frequent blood and plasma concentrates required by hemophiliacs. Further, the costs of treatment increase dramatically with additional transfusions necessitated by surgery, accidental injury, or other medical complications.

Although persons suffering from hemophilia have been afforded some financial relief through grants-in-aid provided in the past by the legislature to the Hemophilia Foundation of Hawaii, the legislature finds that an ongoing state program of financial assistance is a more effective alternative. The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to establish a financial assistance fund for the hemophilia-related medical care and treatment of persons in this State suffering from hemophilia.

SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"PART . HEMOPHILIA

§321- Financial assistance fund for hemophilia. There is established within the department of health a financial assistance fund for persons suffering from hemophilia who require hemophilia-related medical care and treatment, but who are unable to pay the entire costs of such medical care and treatment.

§321- General duties of the department. The department of health shall:

- (1) Provide financial assistance, within the limits of available funds in the financial assistance fund, for the medical care and treatment of persons suffering from hemophilia who meet the standards of eligibility established by the department; provided that the department may contract with a private, nonprofit organization to carry out this function;
- (2) Establish standards of eligibility for the financial assistance provided under this part; and
- (3) Adopt any necessary rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this part."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1983.

(Approved June 14, 1983.)