

ACT 297

S.B. NO. 977

A Bill for an Act Relating to Social Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 346-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition of "Hawaii security net" to be appropriately inserted and to read:

"Hawaii security net" means those public and private assistance and social service programs designed to provide the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter, and medical care."

SECTION 2. Section 346-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§346-14 Duties generally. Except as otherwise provided by law, the department of social services and housing shall:

- (1) Administer, establish programs and standards, and promulgate rules as deemed necessary for all public assistance, including payments for medical care;
- (2) Establish, extend, and strengthen services for the protection and care of neglected children and children in danger of becoming delinquent;
- (3) Assist in preventing family breakdown;
- (4) Place, or cooperate in placing neglected children in suitable private homes or institutions, and place, or cooperate in placing, children in suitable adoptive homes;

- (5) Have authority to establish, maintain, and operate receiving homes for the temporary care and custody of neglected children until suitable plans are made for their care; and accept from the police and other agencies, for temporary care and custody, any neglected child until satisfactory plans are made for the child;
- (6) Cooperate with the federal government in carrying out the purposes of the Social Security Act, and in other matters of mutual concern pertaining to public welfare, public assistance, and child welfare services, including the making of such reports, the adoption of such methods of administration, and the making of such rules and regulations as are found by the federal government, or any properly constituted authority thereunder, to be necessary or desirable for the efficient operation of the plans for such public welfare, assistance, and child welfare services, or as may be necessary or desirable for the receipt of financial assistance from the federal government;
- (7) Carry on research and compile statistics relative to public and private welfare activities throughout the State, including those dealing with dependence, defectiveness, delinquency, and related problems;
- (8) Develop plans in cooperation with other public and private agencies for the prevention and treatment of conditions giving rise to public welfare problems;
- (9) Make such rules governing the procedure in hearings, investigations, recording, registration, determination of allowances, and accounting, and conduct such other activities as may be necessary or proper to carry out this chapter, which rules, when approved by the governor, shall have the force and effect of law;
- (10) Supervise or administer any other activities authorized or required by this chapter, including the development of the staff of the department through in-service training and educational leave to attend schools and other appropriate measures, and any other activities placed under the jurisdiction of the department by any other law;
- (11) Make, prescribe, and enforce such policies and rules governing the activities provided for in section 346-31 as it deems advisable, including the allocation of moneys available for assistance to persons assigned to work projects among the several counties or to particular projects where such apportionment has not been made pursuant to other provisions of law, if any, governing expenditures of the funds, which rules, when approved by the governor, shall have the force and effect of law[.];
- (12) Determine the appropriate level for the Hawaii security net by developing a tracking and monitoring system to determine what segments of the population are not able to afford the basic necessities of life, and advise the legislature annually regarding the resources required to maintain the security net at the appropriate level."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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(Approved June 14, 1983.)