

A Bill for an Act Relating to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services.

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

SECTION 1. Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health problem in the State of Hawaii, with over 3,000 cases reported annually. Such abuse and neglect often result in serious injuries, including fractures, head injuries, internal injuries, burns, mental retardation, and, in certain cases, even can cause deaths. Abuse and neglect can also result in psychosocial impairment such as emotional disorders, behavior disorders, learning disorders, school dropout, and delinquency.

The perinatal and infancy periods have been recognized as critical periods for identifying parents who are risks in order to provide early intervention. Specific problems addressed within these periods, such as unwanted pregnancy, teenage pregnancy, caesarian section, prematurity, and congenital anomaly, significantly increase the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Perinatal services provide the most effective system for the early identification of potential problems and a context for service delivery which is acceptable to families. Preventive efforts have proven highly cost-effective in reducing predicted levels of abuse and averting the cost of subsequent rehabilitation for children and parents.

The purposes of this Act are to permit the department of health to provide secondary prevention programs in child abuse and neglect and serve as the lead agency for programs which provide for a coordinated range of child abuse and neglect prevention services.

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

“PART . CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

§321- Definitions. For the purposes of this part:

“Child screening for early identification and remediation of social and health problems” means routine follow up and progress checks for toddlers and preschoolers which include the location and support of isolated parents in need of assistance.

“Department” means the department of health.

“Education for parenthood” means programs to educate all levels of youths as to the needs and appropriate expectations for the different levels of infancy and childhood.

“Home visitor programs” mean services utilizing paraprofessionals or community volunteers for supportive intervention services to parents from the prenatal through infancy periods.

“Infants in need of extra services” include infants who are ill or handicapped or the result of a multiple birth.

“Mutual aid programs” mean peer-support groups for target populations.

“Perinatal bonding” means the process of attachment between parents and newborns around the circumstance of birth.

“Secondary prevention programs” mean programs directed at recognizing, assessing, and achieving change in high risk situations so that abuse and neglect do not occur.

§321- Child abuse and neglect secondary prevention programs. The department may provide secondary prevention programs which contain a continuum of services starting from before birth and ending in education for the adult parenting responsibility. The types of programs to be provided may include but need not be limited to, prenatal, perinatal bonding, interaction with infants, support for parents of infants in need of extra services, home visitor programs, mutual aid programs, child screening for early identification and remediation of social and health problems, and education for parenthood.

§321- Child abuse and neglect secondary prevention advisory committee. (a) There is established within the department for administrative purposes the child abuse and neglect secondary prevention advisory committee. The committee shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34; except that members shall be appointed for three-year terms. The members shall be officers or employees of public and private agencies which provide multidisciplinary intervention services for the secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect.

(b) The advisory committee shall advise the department on implementation of this part.

(c) The advisory committee shall elect its officers.

(d) Members of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.”

SECTION 3. Section 321-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§321-31 Functions of the department. The powers, duties, and functions of the department of health relating to preventive medicine shall be as follows:

- (1) To supervise and coordinate activities in the fields of preventive medicine, including cancer control, crippled children, epidemiology, geriatrics, laboratories, maternal and child health, mental hygiene, nutrition, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases;
- (2) To formulate and put into effect throughout the State an education¹ program for the purposes of preventing disease and alleviating old age;
- (3) To engage in the collection and analysis of statistical information pertinent to any of its activities;

- (4) To cooperate with and propose methods and programs to other governmental agencies relating to the fields of preventive medicine;
- (5) To serve as the coordinating agency for programs which provide for a range of child abuse and neglect prevention services in relation to assessed needs, regardless of whether the programs are conducted by the department, other government agencies, or private organizations and to coordinate the prevention programs with child abuse and neglect treatment services; provided that this paragraph shall not be interpreted to compel a specified level of services; and
- [(5)] (6) To perform such other appropriate functions as may be required.”

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii, the sum of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1984-1985, for the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 30, 1984.)

Note

- 1. Prior to amendment, “educational” appeared here.