

ACT 342

H.B. NO. 1150

A Bill for an Act Relating to Coordination of Services for Children with Severe Emotional and Developmental Problems.

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

SECTION 1. Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that children with severe emotional and developmental problems are in significant need of service plans which are closely coordinated between and among the multiple agencies which serve them. This need is even more urgent for the small number of children with the most severe problems where uncoordinated service planning and monitoring may actually make problems worse. These children may require highly individualized approaches which may be difficult to obtain without innovative funding approaches. It is in the interest of the State of Hawaii to take care of our children, and every effort should be made to avoid placement of children out of their own homes, out of their communities, or out of state whenever possible.

The purpose of this Act is to provide an innovative and flexible multiple agency resource for coordinating the placement and services for children with severe emotional and developmental problems.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CLUSTER FOR
SERVICES TO CHILDREN**

§ -1 Interdepartmental cluster for services to children; establishment, functions. (a) There is established a statewide interdepartmental cluster for services to children within the department of health which shall be

ACT 342

comprised of representatives of major child-serving agencies with statewide authority and responsibility. The cluster shall include the department of education, the department of health, the department of social services and housing, the judiciary, and the office of children and youth as regular members. The department of health shall staff the cluster and provide an identified place where development and coordination of service plans and programs for the multi-system children having severe emotional and developmental problems may be done on a systematic basis.

- (b) The statewide interdepartmental cluster shall:
 - (1) Establish interdepartmental clusters at the local level;
 - (2) Establish written policies and procedures for both itself and the local clusters;
 - (3) Review and make recommendations on individual cases referred by local clusters or by directors of child-serving departments or agencies that have documentation that various county or local agencies have jointly attempted to develop programs and funding to meet the child's need, and that existing or alternative programs and funding have been exhausted or are insufficient or inappropriate in view of the distinctive nature of the child's situation;
 - (4) Develop written, comprehensive, and coordinated service plans for individual multi-needs children for implementation by local clusters and, where required, utilize funds appropriated to it to assist local clusters in implementing such plans;
 - (5) Identify a single local agency to provide case management for each case accepted by the statewide cluster;
 - (6) Monitor each case; and
 - (7) Adjust policies and procedures and develop training which will ensure appropriate services for multi-system involved children at both the state and local levels."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$339,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1987-1988, and the sum of \$339,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1988-1989, for the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1987.

(Approved June 29, 1987.)