

ACT 118

H.B. NO. 1251

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation to Extend the Housing Demonstration Project.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of older adult housing facilities have been experiencing problems regarding management attitudes and practices. These problems have included alleged neglect and abuse by either housing managers or other ancillary housing staff. Other complaints concern the location of building furniture and fixtures, the installation of screen doors, the need for additional parking spaces or for parking located closer to residential units, and the lack of courteous and respectful behavior and prompt response on the part of the housing staff.

The legislature further finds that as greater numbers of elderly individuals "age in place" in their housing units, new needs of these residents may be expected to emerge. Many of these residents can be expected to live into their eighties or nineties, surviving past the average expected lifespans of years past when the role of housing management was limited to merely providing residents with a safe, decent, and sanitary environment. Housing managers have not had to deal with these emerging problems of the elderly and are often ill-equipped to deal with their needs.

The purpose of this Act is to address the needs of the elderly housing residents of the State by extending a housing demonstration project that provides professional and knowledgeable assistance to the elderly living independently in housing facilities.

SECTION 2. In accordance with Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 1990-1991 to be exceeded by \$100,000, or 0.0039 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1990-1991, to extend the housing demonstration project with two distinct methodologies:

Model A To empower both residents and management toward effective changes in the orientation and approaches used by both in problem solving and complaint resolution in Hale O'Hauoli, Makua Alii, Paokalani, and Kalakaua Midrise; and

Model B To have resident assistants provide assessment/screening advocacy/representation, counseling, information referral and follow-up/evaluation services to all residents of Punchbowl Homes, Pumehana, Kupuna Home O Waialua, Kahuku Elderly, and Kapuna I who request their assistance.

The expected results from this extended demonstration project include:

ACT 118

- (1) The establishment of a problem resolution and service provision and management process for older adult housing residents;
- (2) An increase in resident satisfaction and safety; and ultimately, an increase in the quality of life of older adults residing in elderly housing; and
- (3) The provision of an opportunity for the State to examine and evaluate the merits of differentiating facility management and resident support services in the case of elderly housing.

SECTION 4. The executive office of aging shall submit an interim report to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1991 that evaluates the progress of the demonstration project.

SECTION 5. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1990.

(Approved June 15, 1990.)