

ACT 188

H.B. NO. 3857

A Bill for an Act Relating to Family Centers.

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

SECTION 1. Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, is amended by amending section 1 to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. The legislature finds that families and family structures have changed dramatically in Hawaii, and many families are suffering because of the stresses and strains of economic demands.

Hawaii has the nation’s highest proportion of women in the labor force and future projections show that by the year 2020, two-thirds of those entering the labor force will be women, of which [84] eighty-four per cent will be of child-bearing age. Additionally, nearly 29,000 single-parent households in Hawaii are headed by females, with approximately twenty-eight per cent of these below the poverty line.

The legislature finds that many of these families are at high risk of becoming fragmented and dysfunctional, and a substantial number will continue to be trapped in a cycle of poverty unless existing support systems designed to intervene and assist them in times of need are vastly improved.

Under our present system of services to families, families are required to be in trouble or dysfunctional before they can become eligible to receive services and assistance. Furthermore, once families do become eligible to receive services, they too frequently are treated with little understanding and compassion and all too often are placed in uncomfortable settings at stressful times where they are required to fill out complex forms with little assistance.

The legislature also finds that the relationship between families and their neighborhoods is an interactive process. Family members are profoundly affected by the quality of life in their neighborhoods. By the same token, the quality of life in neighborhoods is affected by the values and input of the families living there.

The legislature further finds that in order to reach out to families and successfully assist them, support services should be coordinated and provided in a community-based setting. These community-based centers should be responsive to and involved with the communities in which they are located to the extent that the communities feel a strong sense of ownership of and identification with the centers. In addition, the overall atmosphere of the facility, as well as the attitude of the staff, should project compassion, understanding, friendliness, and patience.

The purpose of this Act is to establish [a] the family [support] center demonstration project, with [a] family [support center to be located on the island of Oahu,] centers to demonstrate the effectiveness of the community-based family [support] center concept and to test different models of service delivery.”

SECTION 2. Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, is amended by amending section 3 to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. (a) [There] Effective July 1, 1990, to June 30, 1993, there

is established a [two-year] demonstration project, known as the family [support] center demonstration project, to be conducted by the department of human services. Under this project, the department shall be responsible for the planning, implementation, and establishment of [a] family [support center.] centers.

For the purpose of this Act, "family" means the family as an enduring personal support system with the functions of nurturing, caring for, and educating children, youths, adults, and the elderly.

(b) There is established the family [support] center council for the purpose of planning and implementing the establishment and development of [a family support center.] the family center demonstration project. The council shall be appointed by the governor and consist of representatives from the public and private sectors of the community.

(c) The purpose of the family [support] center demonstration project shall be to coordinate the provision of core services to families at [a] community-based [center in order] centers to develop [the] each community's capacity to identify and resolve its problems. [The] Each center shall be responsive to its community and involve its participants as equal partners in program development and execution. Accordingly, [the] each center shall be [governed] advised by a community [family support center board] liaison committee which shall be composed of community members.

[The] Each family [support] center shall offer an array of services tailored to the specific needs of its constituents. Services shall be developed pursuant to family support principles which direct that services must:

- (1) Be offered at convenient times in accessible locations;
- (2) Build on strengths, rather than search for deficits;
- (3) Involve participants and the community in planning and implementation;
- (4) Show respect for participants;
- (5) Serve the best interests of children;
- (6) Strengthen families; [and]
- (7) Be presented in coordination with other agencies and services in the community[.]; and
- (8) Focus on community strengthening and development.

No single service shall overshadow the others, and services shall be provided in a coordinated manner. Because some services will be provided directly by the [center] centers and other services will be provided by other agencies, the [center,] centers, with input from parent constituents, shall develop a service plan, using a systems management approach, for the provision of services. The staff of [the] each center shall be responsible for ensuring that all components of the service plan are carried out. This may require interventions on the part of the staff, including but not limited to: accompanying parents to appointments with other agencies; advocating on behalf of parents; reminding parents of appointments with other agencies; and providing short-term counseling to parents concerning referrals for services.

[The] Each family [support] center shall consider the following services, activities, and components when developing its core services:

- (1) Enhancement of parenting skills[;], including community- or neighborhood-wide events and activities which promote family relationships in a positive and enjoyable manner;
- (2) Infant and child stimulation activities to maximize child growth and development;
- (3) Outreach services targeted at community organizations, families, youth, and others to ensure community awareness, acceptance, and

- participation;
 - (4) Health care, family planning, counseling, and other services to avoid unwanted pregnancies;
 - (5) Assessment and treatment planning for developmental problems of the parent or the child;
 - (6) Temporary developmental child care for the offspring of parents receiving services on-site;
 - (7) Peer support activities, including recreational and social activities;
 - (8) Educational services, such as post-high school classes and instruction to those attempting to earn general equivalency diplomas; and
 - (9) Job preparation and skill development services to assist young parents in preparing, securing, and maintaining employment.
- (d) After conferring with the family [support] center council, the director of [the department of] human services may:
- (1) Enter into agreements with the federal government, other state departments and agencies, and the counties;
 - (2) Enter into assistance agreements with private persons, groups, institutions, or corporations;
 - (3) Purchase services required or appropriate under this Act from any private persons, groups, institutions, or corporations;
 - (4) Allocate and expend any resources available for the purposes of this Act; and
 - (5) Do all things necessary to accomplish the purposes and provisions of this Act.
- (e) An evaluation component shall be required for the family [support center.] centers, which includes, but is not limited to, the following areas:
- (1) Descriptive data on client status;
 - (2) Program utilization data;
 - (3) Profiles of participants;
 - (4) Intervention plans; and
 - (5) Participant and community satisfaction ratings.
- The department of human services may utilize a portion of the funds [appropriated by this Act] available to conduct evaluations of the family [support center.] centers.
- (f) A training and technical assistance component shall be required for the family centers, which includes but is not limited to the following:
- (1) Conducting training sessions for family center directors, staff, and liaison committee members to promote strengthening families within the community;
 - (2) Conducting community development sessions for local communities;
 - (3) Conducting community forums to describe the asset model and philosophy of family centers to private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit agencies;
 - (4) Providing technical assistance to community groups relating to the development of community capacity to address community problems through family centers;
 - (5) Providing technical assistance to applicants for family centers in addressing collaboration with existing services within the community; and
 - (6) Conducting periodic sessions with family center directors to address on-going networking requirements and to share solutions in addressing community problems.

The department of human services may utilize a portion of the funds available to conduct training sessions and provide technical assistance in developing and promoting family centers."

SECTION 3. Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, is amended by amending section 4 to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. The department of human services shall monitor and evaluate the demonstration project and shall submit a status report on its findings to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 1991 and 1992, and a final report on its findings to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1993. Status and final reports shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) A descriptive summary of the operation of the family [support center,] centers, including the services provided and a copy of the service plan developed by the [center,] centers; the number of recipients of services at the [center,] centers; the allocation of funds; staffing information; and the role and responsibility of the community family [support] center [board,] liaison committees;
- (2) An assessment of the impact of the [center] centers upon the [community] communities served;
- (3) The composition and role of the family [support center,] centers;
- (4) Recommendations regarding the continuance of the family [support] center demonstration project and plans for the implementation of other project sites;
- (5) Recommendations regarding the process by which family [support] centers are allocated resources;
- (6) A projected budget for the expenditures required to continue or to expand the demonstration project; and
- (7) Proposals for legislation necessary to facilitate the continuation or expansion of the demonstration project."

SECTION 4. Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, is amended by amending section 8 to read as follows:

"SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that sections 5 and 7 shall take effect on July 1, 1990; provided further that sections 1, 3, and 4 shall be repealed on July 1, 1993."

SECTION 5. Section 6 of Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, is repealed.

["SECTION 6. As part of the family support center demonstration project, two family literacy programs shall be established for the purpose of addressing the family's need for educational, vocational, and parenting training. The family literacy program shall focus on learning sessions for preschool-aged children and their parents. During these sessions, the children shall receive preschool education while their parents shall receive education focusing on parenting skills; traditional subjects, such as reading, language, and mathematics; and vocational training."]

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1992.

(Approved June 12, 1992.)