

ACT 356

S.B. NO. 539

A Bill for an Act Relating to Human Services.

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

SECTION 1. Act 329, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, as amended by Act 188, Session Laws of Hawaii 1992, is amended as follows:

1. By amending section 3 to read:

“SECTION 3. (a) Effective July 1, 1990, to June 30, [1993] 1995, there is established a five-year demonstration project, known as the family 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 family 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 center council for the purpose of planning and implementing the establishment and development of 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.

The council’s duties shall include but not be limited to the development of a plan to make the family center demonstration project permanent. This plan shall focus on implementation of a permanent family center project in 1995 and shall, at minimum, address and make recommendations on the following:

- (1) The continuance of the family center project;
- (2) The development of an administrative structure promoting family center concepts;
- (3) The development of a funding structure promoting collaboration and integration between agencies, both public and private, and with the different sectors of the community;
- (4) The incorporation of training components and community action;
- (5) The provision of technical assistance to communities, agencies, and interested community members relating to the development of family centers;
- (6) The development of an evaluation and assessment component which includes, but is not limited to, the review, assessment, and development of project methodology and process, and the evaluation of project results and accomplishments;
- (7) The development of a process by which family centers are allocated resources;
- (8) The development of a process by which family center sites are selected; and
- (9) The preparation of a projected budget for the expenditures required to continue or to expand the family center project.

(c) The purpose of the family center demonstration project shall be to coordinate the provision of core services to families at community-based centers to

develop each community's capacity to identify and resolve its problems. Each center shall be responsive to its community and involve its participants as equal partners in program development and execution. Accordingly, each center shall be advised by a community liaison committee which shall be composed of community members.

Each family 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;
- (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 centers and other services will be provided by other agencies, the centers, with input from parent constituents, shall develop a service plan, using a systems management approach, for the provision of services. The staff of 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]

- (1) Accompanying parents to appointments with other agencies; [advocating]
- (2) Advocating on behalf of parents; [reminding]
- (3) Reminding parents of appointments with other agencies; and [providing]
- (4) Providing short-term counseling to parents concerning referrals for services.

Each family 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 for, securing, and maintaining employment.

(d) After conferring with the family center council, the director 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 centers, [which includes] that shall include, but [is] not be 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[.];
- (6) Information pertaining to the lessons learned from operating under family center concepts; and
- (7) Information pertaining to whether the family center project has changed the human services system, why each change occurred, and, if applicable, why expected changes did not occur.

The department of human services may utilize a portion of the funds available to conduct evaluations of the family centers.

(f) A training and technical assistance component shall be required for the family centers, [which includes] that shall include, but [is] not be 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."

2. By amending section 4 to read:

"SECTION 4. The legislative reference bureau, in consultation with the department of human services shall monitor and evaluate the demonstration project and shall submit a [status] preliminary evaluation report on its findings to the

ACT 356

legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular [sessions of 1991 and 1992,] session of 1994, and a final evaluation report on its findings to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of [1993. Status] 1995. Preliminary and final evaluation reports shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) A descriptive summary of the operation of the family centers, including the services provided and a copy of the service plan developed by the centers; the number of recipients of services at the centers; the allocation of funds; staffing information; and the role and responsibility of the community family center liaison committees;
- (2) An assessment of the impact of the centers upon the communities served;
- (3) The composition and role of the family centers;
- (4) Recommendations regarding the continuance of the family center demonstration project and plans for the implementation of other project sites;
- (5) Recommendations regarding the process by which family 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.”

3. By amending section 8 to read:

“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.] 1995.”

SECTION 2. Section 346-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

“(a) The standard of need for families of given sizes shall equal the poverty level established by the federal government[.] in 1993, pro-rated over a twelve-month period.

(b) The assistance allowance provided shall be based on a percentage of the standard of need. [On July 1, 1989, the] The assistance allowance shall be set at sixty-two and one-half per cent of the standard of need. [Changes in the financial assistance standard of need and the assistance allowance shall become effective on July 1 of each year thereafter, subsequent to any change in the federal poverty level.] The standard of need shall be determined by dividing the 1993 federal poverty level by twelve and rounding down the quotient. The remaining quotient shall be multiplied by sixty-two and one-half per cent and the final product shall be rounded down to determine the assistance allowance.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved July 1, 1993.)