

**From:** [Marilyn Yamamoto](#)  
**To:** [Standards of Conduct](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for the House Committee on Standards of Conduct  
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Standards of Conduct committee,

The Coalition for Child Protective Reform represents hundreds of Hawaii families who have been harmed by Child Welfare Services and the Family Court indifference to the law and procedures. We have carefully followed bills in 2022 in the Human Services and Health committees and have noticed several issues that we are bringing to your attention.

**ALL BILLS, UNLESS DUPLICATIVE, NEED TO BE HEARD.** There is no justification for the unilateral power of committee chairs to kill a bill by declining a public hearing or by deferral at a hearing **unless there is a reason given to the submitting legislator.**

**A GOVERNOR SHOULD NOT HAVE TO VETO A BILL ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS.** The Coalition was stunned to watch HB2424, Ariel's Law, proceed through the entire process and adoption by both houses that was unconstitutional from the first introduction through the conference committee vote to affirm. The committees blatantly ignored testimonies that clearly stated the illegal "search" in the bill. The conference committee did not recognize the violation of 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights in Section 6(3) or that the Hawaii Constitution Article III, Section 12 prohibits substantial changes to a bill without a public hearing. Legislators have access to legal assistance. How did it happen that HB2424 was not checked for conflict with existing law or constitutional issues?

**SB2416 was written by 2 lawyers but was declined a public hearing with no reason given.** The bill aims to prevent illegal child removals that put foster children at risk of safety checks due to needless overload of the system. It is our perspective that all bills related to family court and parental rights were put on the back burner at one stage or another without assessment of the merits or feedback on reasons to decline.

**The HCCPR urges that zoom/youtube feature of the hearings will be continued in 2023 for the benefit of outer-islanders and citizens who cannot leave their jobs to be at the Capitol hearings. It is vital for transparency of standards of conduct.**

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CHILD PROTECTIVE REFORM