
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO TEMPORARILY DELAY REALIGNMENT OF ITS CHILD WELFARE SERVICE OFFICES ON ISLAND OF HAWAII TO ALLOW FOR THE CONVENING OF A PUBLIC, COMMUNITY FORUM TO DISCUSS REALIGNMENT IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE CONTINUUM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION, FAMILY SUPPORT, FAMILY STRENGTHENING AND VOLUNTARY CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Department of Human
2 Services states, in conjunction with child welfare services,
3 that, "Our committed staff strives, day-in and day-out, to
4 provide timely, efficient and effective programs, services and
5 benefits, for the purpose of achieving the outcome of empowering
6 those who are the most vulnerable in our State to expand their
7 capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence,
8 healthy choices, quality of life and personal dignity"; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Child Welfare Services provides programs on the
11 Big Island of Hawaii; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Child Welfare Services has announced the
14 realignment of offices on the Big Island of Hawaii; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the realignment of these three offices may
17 significantly impact the accessibility of child welfare services
18 in several communities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the realignment of these offices may potentially
21 present hardships for the populations served; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the realignment of these DHS facilities should
24 take into consideration community concerns; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2006, that this body strongly urges the Department of Human
29 Services (DHS) to temporarily delay realignment of its Child

1 Services (DHS) to temporarily delay realignment of its Child
2 Welfare Service offices on the Island of Hawaii to allow for the
3 convening of a public, community forum to discuss the
4 realignment implications and potential impact on the continuum
5 of child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, family
6 strengthening and voluntary case management services for
7 families and children; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
10 Services (DHS) is strongly urged to:

11
12 (1) Initiate a minimum of one interactive, public meeting,
13 but not more than three meetings, with the affected
14 Big Island communities and Child Welfare Services
15 staff. The interactive, public meetings shall consist
16 of Department of Human Services administrators,
17 community stakeholders, and any other organizations or
18 individuals that the Department deems relevant.

19
20 (2) Address, in the course of conducting the interactive,
21 public meetings:

22
23 (A) Concerns of Child Welfare Services staff;

24
25 (B) Concerns of the community; and

26
27 (C) Any other concerns which may arise from any
28 other agencies, organizations, or
29 individuals.

30
31 (3) Provide informative feedback to the affected
32 communities and Child Welfare Services staff regarding
33 whatever concerns might be raised as a result of such
34 meetings; and

35
36 (4) Present a report to the Governor and Legislature, no
37 later than 21 days prior to the convening of the
38 Regular Session of 2007, which shall include the
39 following:

40
41 (A) A comprehensive impact study regarding
42 closure and/or reorganization of Child

Welfare Services facilities on the island of Hawaii, including but limited to:

- (a) Community accessibility;
- (b) Effectiveness of service and qualitative impact on the overall mission of child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, family strengthening and voluntary case management services for families and children;
- (c) Any other concerns regarding closure or realignment of Child Welfare Services facilities on the Island of Hawaii; and

(B) Any proposed legislation, if applicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon completion of not less than one but no more than three interactive public meetings regarding the realignment of Child Welfare Services facilities on the Big Island of Hawaii, that the Department may continue with realignment of its facilities if it deems so appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Human Services, the Administrator of Child Welfare Services, the Mayor and County Council chairperson of the County of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Services of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Services of the House of Representatives.