

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 4 2006

RE: S.C.R. No. 52
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 52 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE
COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A JOINT STUDY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' REUNIFICATION AND KINSHIP
PLACEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the House and
Senate Committees on Human Services to conduct a joint study of
the Department of Human Services' reunification and kinship
placement policies and procedure.

Your Committee received testimony in support from the
National Association of Social Workers, and one individual, and
testimony in opposition to the measure from the Department of
Human Services and the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition.

Upon consideration of the issues, your Committee has decided
to amend this measure to request the House and Senate Committees
on Human Services to convene interim hearings on the use of legal
interventions available to the Family Court.

Your Committee finds that this measure will enable the
relevant stakeholders to participate in an assessment of the
Family Court's caseload, use of legal interventions, the
selection, use, and accountability of court-appointed personnel,
and an evaluation of the definitions of the best interests of the



child and other issues that may have an impact on the timely and fair resolution of cases.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 52, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 52, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,

Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



