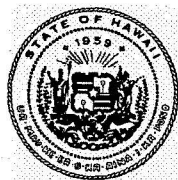


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**LATE TESTIMONY**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 12, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2558, H.D.1 - RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION

Hearing: February 12, 2008, Tuesday, 2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H. B. 2558, H.D. 1 is to authorize the Department of Human Services to conduct unannounced visits to inspect a parental home in which a household member was convicted or adjudicated for certain offenses of child abuse or neglect as a minor and to establish a Well Child Follow-up Visit Pilot Project.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill which is intended to ensure the safety of children, but cannot support this bill as written.

In lieu of this bill, the Department strongly recommends support of H.B. 3134, an Administration bill, to help ensure the continued safety and well-being of children.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

The proposed pilot project in H.B. 3134 will allow the Department to contract for or conduct a "well child" visit with families who have been reported to and investigated by Child Welfare Services, but not confirmed for child abuse or neglect, pursuant to section 587-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The proposed pilot project in H.B. 3134 will allow the Department to review closed cases in an effort to determine if providing a face-to-face visit with the child and family within a year after a case is closed will decrease the possibility of later cases of substantial abuse or neglect involving the same child and family.

By contrast, the Well Child Follow-up Visit Pilot Project proposed in H.B. 2558, H.D. 1, would apply to both confirmed and unconfirmed cases. Additional funding will be required. Preliminarily, we project a rough estimate of at least \$3.5 million to conduct the required visits, for the services and interventions that will be need, and for staffing and infrastructure requirements to provide the services and interventions. Funding, estimated at \$1.5 million, will also be required for the inspection visits proposed in Section 1 of this bill and for follow up services, for a total of \$5 million for this bill. This will clearly adversely impact or replace the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department also defers to the Department of the Attorney General on the legality of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.