



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

February 5, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 3134 - RELATING TO WELL CHILD FOLLOW-UP VISITS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2007 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: To establish a pilot project to provide a "well child" follow-up visit for families who have been reported and investigated by Child Welfare Services, but not confirmed for abuse or neglect.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department strongly supports this Administration bill because it will help to ensure the continued safety and well-being of children.

The proposed pilot project 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 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

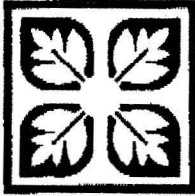
Page 2

will decrease the possibility of later cases of substantial abuse or neglect involving the same child and family.

Additional funding will be required. Preliminarily, we are planning on contracting the well child visits. Based on approximately 4,000 cases investigated, not confirmed, and closed per year and "well child" visits for all children under 18, this would require approximately 2,500 visits per year.

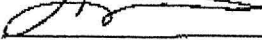
The Department will conduct or contract for "well child" visits subject to the general fund appropriation authorized for this project.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HAWAII

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

FROM: 
Lee J. Katsumoto, Program Administrator

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 (9:00 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **Support of HB 3134, Relating to Well Child Follow-up Visits**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. CCH has provided services for abused, neglected and at-risk children and their families for a number of years. Our programs include: the Comprehensive Counseling & Support Services Program, Hale Malama, Therapeutic Services, Ka Malama Punua (Enhanced Healthy Start) and the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. **We strongly support HB 3134, Relating to Well Child Follow-up Visits.**

The "Well Child" follow-up visit project is a unique preventative approach to continue to assist the needs of at-risk families. Families who are investigated by Child Welfare Services but whose cases are closed because the allegation was not confirmed may be reluctant to ask for help after the fact. A follow up visit within 1 year of case closure could act as a safety net and prevent families from re-entering the system as they would be able to address concerns before they escalated. Families would be empowered to resolve matters concerning their children on a voluntary level.

Catholic Charities Hawaii asks for your support of HB 3134, Relating to Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect. If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me via phone at 535-0170 or via email at katsumoto@catholiccharitieshawaii.org.

Thank you.