



LATE TESTIMONY

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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March 24, 2009

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair House Education Committee and the Honorable Ryan M. Yamane, Chair, House Health Committee

Re: House Resolution 86/68

Representative Takumi and Senator Yamane and members of the Committees

The Seventeen Community Children's Councils of Hawaii strongly urge the passage of this resolution. The Seventeen Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii are a volunteering community based entities across the State organized around school complexes, chaired by a parent and professional Co-chairs who are elected by the broad stakeholder groups, community members, private providers and state child serving agencies.

Quality Assurance activities:

1. It is our understanding that the Internal Service Review Testing process under Felix has been markedly changed in design, random selection of students to be reviewed, and frequency. Given these drastic changes, how do we really know if the reviews provide valid and reliable data for systemic problems which may be identified and require systemic action?
2. Attendance at the monthly district quality assurance meetings does not appear to provide the kind of detailed information needed at this time or to accurately reflect gaps in service delivery or weight lists that may be occurring. There appears to be some confusion in data collection.
3. The data collected and reported in the quarterly Sustainability Reports does not appear to provide data that is comparable or useful across department lines. Additionally it is difficult to take actions to improve services over time.

Appropriate staffing:

1. We know of essential positions in the Department of Education, SBBH services have not been filled for over two years.
2. Positions have been cut in CAMHD. As we understand the problem, competitive compensation for qualified personnel is a contributing factor in the hiring process.

Service array is incomplete:

1. It is our understanding that students having developmental delays and those within the autism spectrum disorder are not currently served by CAMHD. In our experience, most of these students also have emotional and behavioral challenges.
2. It is our understanding that there are problems in the use of the CAFAS scores and the BASC information which is used in the provision of services.
3. There does not appear to be a clear range of programs offered particularly for those students needing services to prevent them from needing residential services or for those students to return to their local community.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns.

Respectfully,

Tom Smith, Professional Co-Chair, CCC Legislative committee
(Signatures are on file with the CCCO)