

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

134

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2009

RE: S.B. No. 1006

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 1006 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to use culturally sensitive, family strengthening diversion and other supportive services by clarifying that placement of a child in the care of relatives and friends is an alternative to the Department of Human Services' assumption of custody of the child.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services; Catholic Charities Hawaii; Family Programs Hawaii; the Partners in Development Foundation; the Kokua Council; and five individuals. The Judiciary submitted comments on this measure. Copies of written testimony are available for review on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that the federal Child and Family Services Review of Hawaii's child welfare system recommended that the State implement culturally sensitive and family strengthening diversion practices as an alternative to the Department of Human Services' assumption of custody. It is a local custom for children to be cared for by relatives and friends. Your Committee finds that permitting children to be placed in the homes of relatives and friends will protect against the unnecessary placement of a child in the Department's custody and will preserve the child's relationships with his or her family, friends, and community.

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Your Committee acknowledges the comments submitted by the Judiciary and urges the Department of Human Services to include in implementing this measure, the requirements that a caretaker provide notice to the Department of Human Services when they intend to return the child and the powers of attorney be in place.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1006 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

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

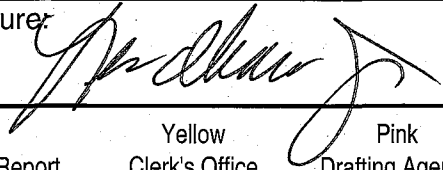
Suzanne Chun Oakland

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1006	HMS, JGO	2/12/09		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	3			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes