

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1009

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2011

RE: S.R. No. 73
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 73 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the formation of a specialized Domestic Violence Unit within the Child Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Domestic Violence Action Center, Papa Ola Lokahi, Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i, and six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that domestic violence is a key challenge facing many families in the Child Protective Services system. Your Committee further finds that efforts have been made over the years to strengthen working relationships and improve training and interventions necessary to keep women and children safe.

Your Committee has heard the concerns that a specialized Domestic Violence Unit in Child Welfare Services may not be the most appropriate means to address domestic violence issues in child welfare cases. Your Committee understands that these issues



involve agencies and entities that are beyond the authority and responsibility of the Department of Human Services. According to testimony received by your Committee, these concerns may be better addressed through an independent third party working in cooperation with various state agencies.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the request that the Department of Human Services create a specialized Domestic Violence Unit within the Child Welfare Services Branch;
- (2) Requesting the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to work in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and Judiciary to convene a working group to develop a Volunteer Domestic Violence Assessment and Case Management Unit;
- (3) Requesting the Volunteer Domestic Violence Assessment and Case Management Unit to address and respond to cases where allegations or a history of domestic violence has been raised or identified;
- (4) Deleting the requirement that the Department of Human Services report to the Legislature on the status of the Domestic Violence Unit;
- (5) Requesting the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the Volunteer Domestic Violence Assessment and Case Management Unit;
- (6) Changing its title to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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.R. No. 73, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 73, S.D. 1.



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

Suzanne Chun Oakland

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 73	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 3-29-11		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" 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				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes