



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

February 23, 2012

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 3046 - RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2012; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to comply with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the proposed bill to ensure that the Department remains in compliance with requirements of the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The DHS, however, does not feel that this legislation is needed.

The federal Administration for Children and Families regularly notifies the Department of changes needed in statute to remain compliant with the federal CAPTA provisions. In those instances where the Department becomes aware that Hawaii's child welfare statute is non-compliant with CAPTA, we introduce legislation to ensure continued conformity with federal requirements.

The current language of the bill also appears to require the Department to “adopt and comply with the language and intent of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act . . . including any amendments adopted after December 20, 2010.” This language is overly broad and would also require the Department to create and institute optional demonstration and discretionary grant programs currently referenced under CAPTA. These optional demonstration and discretionary grant programs include extended training for community partners, recruitment of volunteers in public and nonprofit organizations, mutual support programs, Parents Anonymous, and respite and nursery care programs. If the intent of this legislation is to require the DHS to implement these optional demonstration and discretionary programs, the Department will require additional staffing and funding should this measure be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.