



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 21, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.C.R. 118/H.R. 89 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF THE NEW EXPANDED ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW**

Hearing: Thursday, March 21, 2013; 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.C.R. 118/H.R. 89 is to request the Department of Human Services (DHS) provide statistical data and analysis in regard to the impact of the expanded Adult Protective Services statute that was amended effective July 1, 2009.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully offers these comments.

Effective July 1, 2009, Adult Protective Services' (APS) mandate to provide services was expanded from "dependent adults" to include all "vulnerable adults." As a direct result, APS's abuse caseload investigations increased 51% (from 630 APS reports in FY 2009 to 1,048 reports in FY 2012). Simultaneously in 2009, there was a dismantling of APS and the RIF which reduced APS staffing by 25% resulting in: a delay in response time to APS reports (from 24-48 hours to 3-5 days); inability to follow-

up with victims to ensure their continued safety resulting in an increase in re-abuse rates (4.1% in FY 2009 to 6% in FY 2012); and specialized, trained APS workers were required to assume additional non-APS functions, impacting their ability to manage APS abuse cases.

In response to the critical state of Adult Protective Services, the DHS is in the process of re-engineering the APS system to incorporate best and evidence-informed practices and reflective of national standards of care. The proposed changes to the APS system will provide demonstrated, proven interventions directed toward safeguarding the well-being of elders and dependent adults suffering from or at risk of abuse or neglect. Improvement of data collection and the utilization of data as quality indicators to support tracking, trending and identifying gaps in services will be part of the system redesign. This in depth process will require an assessment of the current system and environment; identification of client and targeted population needs; research of national best practices/evidence-based/evidence-informed programs; development of policies, procedures and standards; and implementation new policies and procedures.

Due to the larger nature of this process, the DHS proposes that the data and specific information requested in this bill be deleted and instead, the DHS be requested to submit a progress and final report to update the Legislature of these efforts to improve the APS system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.