



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

March 11, 2014

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

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 3034, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD  
WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2014; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 3034, S.D. 2, is to appropriate funds to restore the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration to assist with the recruitment and training of graduate students from the University of Hawaii School of Social Work for Child Welfare positions at the Department of Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill provided it does not adversely affect the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

When this program was in effect, the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC) was a successful workforce recruitment and training program between the DHS and the University of Hawaii School of Social Work. Between 1998 and 2008, 109 graduate students were admitted to the HCWEC. Of that total, 100 students completed the program; and as of 2013, 25 graduates were still employed by CWS.

In 2009-2010, the Reduction-in-Force decimated CWS of 21% of its experienced social workers. The Department of Human Services has been rebuilding the CWS staff; however, the intensity and complexity of child protective services has made it extremely challenging to recruit, hire and retain qualified social workers. As of December 31, 2013, CWS had 64 vacant positions. At the same time, CWS staff are retiring or transferring to other jobs. This situation is compounded by the fact that 36% of CWS workers are 50-59 years of age and 29% are 40-49 years. There is a concern that with the impending possibility of retirements in the next five years, CWS will face a critical shortage of experienced workers and supervisors.

The HCWEC could provide a continuous stream of qualified candidates, filling vital vacant positions. Utilizing the university's graduate social work program, ten (10) fulltime and ten (10) part time students would be educated and trained with specialized CWS curriculum, field integrated seminars, and practicum placement in Child Welfare. Students would graduate with a Masters in Social Work degree and be employed with Child Welfare Services after graduation, for a minimum of three years. Based on prior experience, the Collaboration is projected to cost \$353,176 annually, of which 75% is State funded (\$264,882) and 25% Federally funded (\$88,294).

Building a workforce of highly qualified social workers will ensure the safety and well-being of children, increase the level of services to families and improve the outcomes for children in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 10:00 am

by

Dr. Noreen Mokuau, Dean  
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 3034 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

As the dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am pleased to support SB 3034 SD2 which funds the opportunity for collaboration between the MBTSSW and DHS/CWS. SB 3034's appropriated funds will allow for the restoration of the Hawai'i Child Welfare Education Collaboration which assists in the training of graduate students from the University of Hawai'i Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for child welfare positions at the Department of Human Services.

MBTSSW and DHS/CWS have a history of collaboration and partnership in successfully recruiting and training social work students to work in the child welfare field in Hawai'i. If approved, the funding allocation for HCWEC will address well documented work force shortages within child welfare services.

MBTSSW is uniquely positioned to support HCWEC due to previous collaborative efforts with DHS/CWS as well as our capacity to deliver the MSW degree program to students who reside on each of the neighbor islands, thus ensuring funds appropriate to the HCWEC support DHS/CWS workforce development statewide.

I encourage the committee to amend SB 3034 SD2 to ensure funding for HCWEC for at minimum three (3) years, to ensure CWS workers are supported through completion of MSW degree requirements. Funding for three (3) years will support DHS employees in Child Welfare while they work full time at CWS and take classes part time.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration of this bill, with the proposed amendment provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

March 10, 2014

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair - Committee on Human Services  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Human Services

From: National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter  
Marty A. Oliphant, Executive Director

Re: **SB 3034**, Relating to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration, **Strong Support**

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: State Capitol, Room 329

Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services my name is Marty Oliphant and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 3034** which will support the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration.

This bill appropriates funds to restore the Hawaii child welfare education collaboration to assist with the recruitment and training of graduate students from the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for child welfare positions at the Department of Human Services. There are currently 64 vacant positions in the Department of Human Services. NASW concurs with findings of the measure, "Accordingly, the intent of this Act is to build a workforce of highly qualified social workers in Hawaii and improve outcomes for Hawaii children" (and families).

NASW supports the professional development and training of all social workers. The Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration prepares social work graduate students by integrating curriculum, field integration seminars, and practicum experiences to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals to respond appropriately to the needs of the children and families involved in the Child Welfare Services system (CWS). To date, the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration, have seen was a successful workforce recruitment and training program that provided over a hundred positions with twenty-five participants remaining employed by CWS. In addition, there are numerous others that are indirectly connected with CWS serving in public and private agencies such as Children's Justice Centers of Hawaii, EPIC Ohana Conferences, Family Programs Hawaii, and NASW.

**NASW strongly supports SB 3034.** We appreciate your sincere consideration of the restoration of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

# Cheri Tarutani, MSW, LCSW



P.O. Box 235351 • Honolulu, HI 96823 • E-Mail: ctarutani@yahoo.com

RE: Testimonial Support for SB3034  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014  
Hearing Time: 10:00 am  
Place: Conference Room 329

Aloha Representative Carroll and Representative Kobayashi and committee members,

My name is Cheri Tarutani and I am a proud graduate of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC) and I strongly support SB3034. It is with much gratitude that I submit this testimony.

My cohort of 12 graduated eleven years ago. Six are still employed with Child Welfare Services (CWS), one is retired, sadly one has passed, and the rest support child welfare in our professional roles. What appears to happen is that even when those graduates leave CWS, they continue on in positions that support the Department. Consequently, CWS now has a community of well-educated and experienced social workers supporting their work, their workers and the children and families that they assist.

Child welfare social workers are special. I believe, they are the most giving of all public servants with their time, their hearts and their continual sacrifices regardless of staff shortages, layoffs, hiring freezes, furloughs, natural disasters, etc. The State has designated them essential workers and I agree, whole heartedly, and believe together Child Welfare Services in collaboration with the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work have done an excellent job preparing past graduates for this unique work and can be just as successful reinstating the program.

Graduates from the program share camaraderie and pride from completing the HCWEC program and are also deeply imbedded in a unique experience that only those who have lived it can understand. With diversion services in place, child welfare social workers must now be equipped to work with the most serious and severe cases. These families are in extreme crisis and are highly vulnerable. Professional social workers are aware of the potential imbalance of power in these relationships, and are trained and educated to remove bias and understand trauma. They work collaboratively with families, and practice ethically to ensure all families are treated fairly with warmth, genuineness and empathy.

I cannot stress the importance of involving child welfare workers and graduate social work students as part of this collaboration due to the nature of this work. As an instructor for the School of Social Work, I strongly encourage students to consider the area of public child welfare to start their careers as I believe this provides the best foundation for them to work with children and families. To have a comprehensive program specifically addressing this specialized area of social work would tremendously benefit those who commit to careers in child welfare and the families they serve.



In closing, I want to say that the six and a half years of I spent in child welfare services were the most challenging of my life, but the most rewarding experience of my career. There were many tears, but those tears of joy when a child once wrote me, “Thank you for giving me my daddy back” ... well, those words resonate with me every day.

Again, thank you Representatives Carroll and Kobayashi and I humbly request that the committee members support this bill with passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Cheri Tarutani

**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** kaid@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3034 on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM\*

**SB3034**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kai Duponte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 10:17 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** lucasharon@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB3034 on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM\*

**SB3034**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sharon Adric	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee  
on Human Services

From: Karissa Cheng, MSW student

Re: **SB 3034**, Relating to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration, **Strong Support**

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: State Capitol room 329

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 3034. My name is Karissa Cheng and I am currently a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson, School of Social Work. As a graduate student trying to get all the experience possible, this program would be one that I would be particularly interested in. This program would offer practical skills and knowledge needed for future employment at Child Welfare Services (CWS).

I know there are many students who are particularly interested in this particular field and I feel that we need the appropriate education and skills to be successful in this type of work. With graduation approaching, many students are looking to work at CWS but may not have the experience or specialized training to succeed. I believe this program will help students like me be more prepared for the field, which will result in more success for CWS.

I appreciate your consideration to restore funds to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Karissa Cheng

COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES

Honorable Mele Carroll, Chairperson  
Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chairperson

Tuesday March 11, 2014  
10:00 A.M.  
Room 329

**LATE**

**STRONG SUPPORT SB 3034, SD2– RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE  
EDUCATION COLLABORATION**

Please vote yes to pass this bill and please appropriate the necessary funds to restore the Hawai'i child welfare education collaboration to assist with the recruitment and training of graduate students from the University of Hawai'i school of social work for child welfare positions at the department of human services.

The collaboration between the University of Hawai'i school of social work and the state department of human services helps to ensure a higher quality of social work services for needy families and children. Good social services for at-risk children and families helps prevent other costly interventions including the criminal justice system.

Social workers like any profession benefit from the support of academic institutions. Social workers who work with families at risk for child abuse and neglect are especially subject to tremendous stresses and special preparation is necessary. Their being trained specifically with the university's support only makes them more likely to be successful in understanding how to work with these families. Social work is a social science and subject to new discoveries like any other science.

California has an especially strong collaborative effort with its Berkeley school of social work and its state child welfare departments, which has been shown to effectively increase best practices for working with children and families (See: *California Social Work Education Center: A Partnership for Education, Student Support, Training, Evaluation and Research*, January 1, 2014. Retrieved February 2, 2014 from <http://calswec.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/calswec-factsheet.pdf>)

It is vital for social workers to stay up to date on the latest practices and research in working with at risk families and children. It is just as important for the university to keep abreast of the realities facing child protection social workers in our state. Clearly the two agencies need to collaborate in order to foster better child welfare outcomes. The research is clear, if we can work more effectively assist at-risk children and families, we can decrease many other costly social problems including substance abuse and participation in the criminal justice system.

I am a former deputy attorney general who represented the state in many cases concerning child welfare and the prison system. Since 1994 I have been applying a public health and restorative approach for working with many marginalized populations and training others in this area.

Please see my website [www.lorennwalker.com](http://www.lorennwalker.com) for a description of my background and experience in education, social welfare, family court and the corrections systems.

Thank you for your time and efforts in public service.

LORENN WALKER, J.D., M.P.H.

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**LATE**

Aiyana Kanaka`ole  
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Honolulu, HI 96822  
[aiyana@hawaii.edu](mailto:aiyana@hawaii.edu)

To: Senator Representative Ige,  
Senator Representative Kidani,  
And members of the Senate Committee on WAM

From: Aiyana Kanaka`ole

RE: SB 3034 SD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration –  
SUPPORT

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on WAM, I am  
testifying in **strong support** of SB 3034.

My name is Aiyana Kanaka`ole and I am a junior in the School of Social Work at UH Mānoa. I  
am in strong support of this bill because I think this collaboration offers opportunity to deserving  
graduate students by providing them with a job after they graduate and also waiving their tuition  
fee. As a college student, I know how costly it is to be able to receive a 4 year degree let alone  
attend graduate school. With its high tuitions, opportunities like this motivate students to even  
consider graduate school and work harder. This collaboration between the school of social work  
and the DHS was running for years prior to the cut of its funding, so I urge you all to support this  
bill so we can get this program reinstated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Aiyana Kanaka`ole

**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** Keshia Adolpho <adolpho@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mele Carroll; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi; HUS testimony  
**Subject:** SB 3034

March 11, 2014



**Testimony on SB 3034:**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION**

Senate Committee on Human Services Chair Mele Carroll, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee Members

March 11, 2014 10:00am

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Keshia L. Adolpho

Aloha, Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee members. My name is Keshia Adolpho and I am a third year master's student with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Social Work Distance Learning Program in Hilo. I am currently enrolled in an Advanced Social Work Policy course that is being taught by Dr. Wesley Lum. I am testifying in strong support of SB 3034 that would make an appropriation to restore the Hawaii child welfare education collaboration to assist with the recruitment and training of graduate students from the University Of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School Of Social Work for Child Welfare positions with the Department of Human Services

As a third year graduate student I feel that it is a shame that such collaboration is no longer occurring and feel that it is the responsibility of our state government and legislative branch to reinstate this collaboration immediately. When I graduate with my MSW degree on May 17, 2014, I along with the rest of my classmates will be on the hunt for jobs that match our degree and how wonderful would it have been for some of us to have the peace of mind that right after graduate school we would be placed in Child Welfare services and would be able to put our MSW skills and learning to good use.

Many of us know the impact and importance of this particular agency in keeping our children safe from abuse and neglect. I feel very strongly that this bill should be passed and hope that you will support me in saying yes

to this bill. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to submit my testimony and for your commitment to Hawaii's people.

**kobayashi1-Joni**

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**From:** HMS Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:13 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of SB 3034



**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Maroon

**From:** Anne Fitzpatrick [mailto:annefitz@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 1:29 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 3034

Honorable Senators;

I am in support of SB 3034 SD2, which would restore funding to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaborative.

This benefits the employees of CWS as well as having an established workforce with an advanced degree in the field of Social Work. This bill would help Child Welfare Services provide greater service to our keiki by training and hiring graduates of UH SSW.

Thank you for your time.

Anne Fitzpatrick

**LATE**

March 11, 2014

Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB3034 S.D. 2 as I feel that this is important to bring back to fulfill the need for further social workers in collaboration with Child Welfare. I was personally affected by this as I was one of the social workers who dismissed from CWS due to the reduction in workforce. I would have stayed at CWS and would have started and completed my education in the MSW DE program through UH Manoa School of Social Work if the rift did not occur.

Unfortunately, as a result of being rifted I am no longer employed by CWS and will graduate with my MSW this May 2014. Further, I will have to pay for my cost of tuition and expenses after I graduate. Whereas, CWS would have benefited by keeping me employed and continuing the program with UH Manoa School of Social Work as I would have been a more qualified employee of CWS.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Cockett