



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

March 20, 2014

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.C.R. 156 / H.R. 117 - REQUESTING A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF
THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE SOCIAL
SERVICES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 20, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.C.R. 156/ H.R. 117 is to request the Auditor to conduct a management audit of the Child Welfare Services Branch to focus on missing children, including incidences and the implementation of measures to prevent or resolve incidents.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers the following comments for consideration.

The DHS Child Welfare Services Branch is subject to on-going federally mandated reviews by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). All states undergo CFSR reviews on an on-going basis. This review is a collaborative state and federal effort to help states improve child welfare services and improve outcomes. The federal review process assesses

the major program areas of CWS which are intake, investigation and assessment, case management, and permanency.

The review process involves on-site visits by the Children's Bureau and state child welfare staff and includes case records examination and interviews with stakeholders. After the review, the state's performance is assessed based on national standards and a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is developed to address areas that need strengthening through measurable action steps. Continual progress needs to be made through the PIP or federal funding may be withheld.

Additionally, the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services conducts quality assurance reviews of Hawaii's Differential Response System which meets the federally Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirements for triage procedures for reports of child abuse and neglect. The Resource Center reviews ensure that the decisions made by CWS are the right decisions in determining the most appropriate, effective and least intrusive response. These evaluations include on-site visits by the Resource Center and case reviews.

Collectively, these comprehensive reviews ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements; determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and assist states to enhance their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:09 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM*

HCR156

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:33 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jusbecuz@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM*

HCR156

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:48 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lhirohat@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM

HCR156

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Hirohata	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: The DHS Child Welfare Services Branch has been under federal monitoring for the most part since 2003. A new Program Improvement Plan (corrective action plan) was mandated after the federal site visit in 2009. So, it would be prudent at this time to have an oversight management report on the progress the DHS,CWS Branch is making towards correcting all of the violations or "not-met criteria" the feds cited the CWS branch for in 2009. For the sake of the children, we need to make sure that the Child Welfare Services Branch is providing effective and efficient services.

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kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:32 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM*

HCR156

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 3:09 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: johnrhinkle@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM

HCR156

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john hinkle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure - as a social services professional, licensed mental health counselor, and former Assistant Administrator of Program Development for the Hawaii Child Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Human Services. Oversight and compliance are necessary components of any public service that receives taxpayer dollars. This Bill discusses a previous audit of CWSB that was conducted 10 years ago, in 2004. That audit uncovered several areas that required attention and corrective action. Have these deficient areas been attended to and corrected? We have no way of knowing without a new audit. Also of equal importance, the Legislature requested an audit of CWSB that was conducted near the end of 2010, at the end of the previous administration's tenure. This was a rather lengthy audit, going on for well over a month. To date, the results of that audit have not been published. While this audit may have involved Federal dollars as well as State dollars, it would have also reviewed managerial practices, methodologies for reviewing contract compliance, and the like. What happened to this audit? Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to support this request for an audit.

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kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:31 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR156 on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM*



HCR156

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 20, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony to: HUS committee

Measure No. HCR 156

March 20, 2014

10:00 AM, Rm 329

I am an advocate for families involved in Child Welfare Services cases.

I strongly support an audit of Child Welfare Services to determine the following: of all of child abuse and neglect referrals that were screened to investigation in a 12-month period of time, how many cases resulted in child removal to foster care and of those, how many parents were given notice of probable cause of criminal abuse and referred to the prosecutor for charges in criminal court.

Child abuse and neglect is a crime. If that is the case, I question the rate of child removal vs. parents who are charged with that crime. What is the reason for child removal when there is no charge of criminal abuse?

Federal law dictates that all reasonable efforts be made to preserve the family unit rather than incarcerate children in foster care. The state of Hawaii has been found delinquent in documenting reasonable efforts to avoid the separation of family members by a Title IV-E audit in 2013.

The public tax payer needs to know how child welfare services conducts its business, and what monetary incentives from federal funding drive the policy of the agency. My research materials say that far fewer foster placements should be implemented than in actual practice and that, even in cases where a child has been severely abused, state custody is a traumatic event for the child. Child removal should be used as a last resort only and comes at a very high price to the taxpayer and the child who likely never recovers from the experience.

An audit should reveal the facts behind the statistics on the DHS report of child maltreatment by category of abuse and neglect that indicate physical and sexual abuse is less than 10% of all removals to foster care. I question the 80% of child removal based upon threatened harm and the definition of that category of child maltreatment.