



SB 2160

Measure Title: RELATING TO FAILURE TO REPORT A MISSING CHILD.

Report Title: Felony; Report death or disappearance of child; False report

Description: Establishes penalties for caregivers who fail to report the death or disappearance of a child to law enforcement or who provide false information to law enforcement authorities.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, JDL

Introducer(s): SLOM, Chun Oakland, Kahele, Solomon, Wakai



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

February 11, 2014

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland ~ Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

February 13, 2014 at 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 016

FROM: Marty Oliphant, Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 2160 Relating to Failure to Report a Missing Child - **SUPPORT**

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senator Josh Green Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). NASW supports the intent of SB 2160 Relating to Failure to Report a Missing Child.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 797,500 children younger than 18 were reported missing in a one-year period of time...resulting in an average of 2, 185 children being reported missing each day. In addition, the Courage Worldwide website (courageworldwide.org/hawaii/the-problem/) states, "The discrepancy in the number of children reported as runaways and the actual number of children missing is often due to non-reporting. Approximately 300 to 400 children are reported missing everyone month in Hawaii. Children on the street, lacking basic human necessities, are most vulnerable and susceptible to sex traffickers". These statistics are mentioned to highlight the need of the caregiver to promptly report missing children. Outcomes for missing children are usually negative.

Once a caregiver is aware of a child's death, they should immediately contact the authorities. The medical interventions and/or determination should be handled by the appropriate medically trained professional. Immediate investigation of the circumstance of the child's death can prevent injury to potentially other children associated with the deceased child.

NASW supports the intent of the SB 2160 in that the measure would encourage immediate response of the caregiver regarding the death of child and/or missing child.

NASW urges your favorable consideration of SB 2160.

February 12, 2014

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Urging the Legislature to **support SB 2160: Caylee's Law**, which would establish a felony for a caregiver who does not report the death or disappearance (for more than 48 hours) of a child, introduced by State Senator Sam Slom.

Honorable Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the State Legislature to support this important Bill that will provide guidelines and penalties for caregivers who fail to report the death or disappearance of a child to authorities or that provide false information regarding the child's well-being and existence.

As a non-profit agency that serves families with children, our mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect. It is clearly evident that the most vulnerable population in our society is that of newborns, infants and toddlers, who are limited in advocating for their own status and well-being.

Caylee's Law will help support and enforce the rights of defenseless children while providing due process of parents, caregivers or legal guardians that fail to report accurate and timely information when a child dies or goes missing.

It is our duty to help ensure that Hawaii provides clear guidelines and laws to protect children's rights, keeping them safe from maltreatment and neglect. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jani Sheppard
Chief Executive Officer
Maui Family Support Services
1844 Wili Pa Loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

SB2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for HMS on Feb 13, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jani Sheppard	Ho'oikaika Partnership	Support	No

Comments: