



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committees on Health and Human Services**

**S.B. 2718, S.D. 1, Relating to the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund**

**Testimony of David Sakamoto, M.D., M.B.A.  
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration**

**February 27, 2014**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of the bill and offers  
2 amendments. The Department suggests additional time may be necessary to bring all the stakeholders  
3 together to conduct a thorough review of proposed statutory changes, the implications of those changes  
4 and agree on an effective structure to distribute funds from the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund to promote  
5 child abuse and neglect prevention.

6 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill is aimed at reorganizing the structure of the Hawaii Children's  
8 Trust Fund and proposes to eliminate the advisory committee, leaving an expanded advisory board and  
9 coalition remaining in statute. The Department is currently represented on both the Advisory Board and  
10 Advisory Committees. As the lead state agency for child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, the  
11 Advisory Committee, in particular, has provided the Department with important input into planning of  
12 child abuse and neglect efforts.

13 The Department is in full agreement of the need to improve functioning of the HCTF and is  
14 encouraged by the productive dialogue that is taking place. However, further analysis and discussion by

1 the stakeholders is needed to collectively consider and discuss the proposed changes and their potential  
2 impacts.

3 The Department offers the following amendments:

- 4 1. On page 2, line 7, insert “(3) Advise the department of health on matters involving  
5 the prevention of child abuse and neglect.” This was previously the role of the  
6 advisory committee per HRS 350B-6(b)(4). We feel this formalized function is an  
7 integral part of the department’s role in planning and coordinating child abuse and  
8 neglect prevention efforts.
- 9 2. On page 2, line 11, insert “(4) Establish protocols to foster communication with the  
10 coalition on priorities and decisions of the advisory board;” This will help ensure that  
11 communication occurs between the advisory board and the coalition, and that the  
12 voice of the community will not be lost. This is important as the proposed measure  
13 changes the ratio of community to government representation.
- 14 3. On page 4, line 6, insert “(6) One member shall be a representative of the family  
15 health services division of the department of health.” This is critical to maintain a  
16 second voting member of the board from the department of health, as was previously  
17 provided for in the statute.

18 We look forward to continue working with the HCTF Advisory Board, Advisory Committee and  
19 the Coalition to effectively support distribution of HCTF funding and fostering coordination of child  
20 abuse and neglect prevention efforts.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



**HAWAI'I CHILDREN'S  
TRUST FUND**

*Investing in Ohana for a Stronger Hawai'i*

February 26, 2014

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services

and

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health

From: Marty Oliphant, MSW  
Chair, Advisory Committee  
Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund

Re: SB2718 – SUPPORT with Amendments

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2014  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the leadership structure of the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund (HCTF). This measure would combine the Advisory Committee and Advisory Board leadership structures to form one leadership structure, allowing for more effective planning and implementing of HCTF's goals and activities centered around prevent efforts regarding Child Abuse and Neglect in the state of Hawai'i. We advocate for the following amendments (with future amendments to be discussed):

1. Recommendations from the Department of Health:

- On page 2, line 7, insert "(3) Advise the department of health on matters involving the prevention of child abuse and neglect." This was previously the role of the advisory committee per HRS 350B-6(b)(4). We feel this formalized function is an integral part of the department's role in planning and coordinating child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.
- On page 2, line 11, insert "(4) Establish protocols to foster communication with the coalition on priorities and decisions of the advisory board;" This will help ensure that two-way communications will occur, and that the voice of the community will not be lost or dismissed.

- On page 4, line 6, insert “(6) One member shall be a representative of the Family Health Services Division of the Department of Health.”
2. Other Recommendations:
- On page 1, line 3 and 4, change the “advisory board” to “board”.
  - On page 5, line 1, change the wording of “survivors of child abuse and neglect” to Parent/Consumer Advocate.
  - On page 4, line 17 to 20, in regards to County Representations; we are considering additional representatives from Molokai and Lanai. In addition, we are considering have 2 representatives vs. 1 Island of Hawai‘i representative (1 from the East and West areas of Island of Hawai‘i).

Thank you for your support of our shared efforts to prevent abuse in Hawai‘i.

LATE

Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
and  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
By  
Dr. Sylvia Yuen

**Support for SB 2718, SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund**

Chairs Chun Oakland and Green, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health: Thank you for the opportunity to present my personal testimony in support of SB 2718, SD1, which amends the law relating to the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund (HCTF).

I am a member of the HCTF Advisory Board and strongly believe the amendments proposed in SB 2718, SD1 will result in a stronger community network that works to prevent child abuse and neglect in Hawaii. The present statute establishes a three-level system of Advisory Board, Advisory Committee, and Coalition which creates operational inefficiencies and misunderstandings regarding roles and responsibilities. It also increases the administrative cost of supporting these bodies.

The proposed amendments have been well thought through. The problems and how to improve functions and relationships in the present system were discussed at several joint meetings of the HCTF Advisory Board and Advisory Committee, whose members are also members of the Coalition. A facilitated retreat was then convened to identify strategies to improve the present system. This was followed by meetings of the legislative subcommittee which used the findings of the retreat to develop the amendments to SB 2718, SD1.

The Hawaii State Legislature established HCTF in 1993. It was an enlightened and needed legislation which recognized and supported public-private partnerships in preventing child abuse and neglect in Hawaii. In the 21 years since its passage, there have been changes in resources, operating procedures and transactions, and the time to assess how the statute is working and where it can be improved. The proposed amendments will divert the nonproductive time and attention now spent on administrative and operational issues to the more important matter of reducing child abuse and neglect—where the focus rightly belongs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.