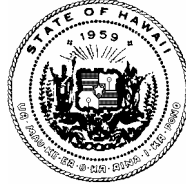


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 20, 2014

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 3034, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD
WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION**

Hearing: Thursday, February 20, 2014; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 3034, S.D. 1, 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 qualify 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.

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



National Association of Social Workers Hawaii Chapter

October 29, 2013

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair - Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

and

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair – Committee on Higher Education
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education

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: Thursday, February 20, 2014 Time: 9:00 a.m. Location: State Capitol, Room 211

Senator Ige Chair, Senator Kidani Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i Child Welfare Education Collaboration, have seen 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 Hawai‘i, EPIC ‘Ohana Conferences, Family Programs Hawaii, and NASW.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 am

by

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

SB 3034 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 provide written comments in support of SB 3034 SD1 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 also encourage the committee to consider amending SB 3034 SD1 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.

Cheri Tarutani, MSW, LCSW



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

RE: Testimonial Support for SB3034
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014
Hearing Time: 9:00 am
Place: Conference Room 211

Aloha Senators Ige, Kidani 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. Thank you for dedicating your time to hear testimony in regard to an often under prioritized need in the state.

Funding the collaborative will be money well spent.

When I graduated with my MSW in 2003 as a HCWEC graduate, I was committed to Child Welfare Services (CWS) for two years. Before my commitment was fulfilled, I received many job offers because of my education and the skilled experience I acquired as a CWS investigator and case manager. Many of those jobs offered higher salaries and less stress. I did not leave. No amount of money could match the rewards from helping the state's most vulnerable children and families.

CWS receives highly qualified and marketable social work graduates from the HCWEC program. These highly qualified and experienced professionals dedicate themselves to getting the work done in spite of staff shortages, layoffs, hiring freezes and furloughs. Budget cuts have already limited overtime and updating technology.

Although I believe this collaboration primarily addresses child abuse and neglect in the State of Hawaii, support of this bill also sends a message of recognition to our hard working social workers in the child welfare system that the legislature is willing to support them in building staff and improving retention so they can do what they do best... protect the keiki.

Again, thank you Senators Ige and Kidani and I humbly request that the committee members support this bill.

Sincerely,

Cheri Tarutani

January 31, 2014

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 3034

Aloha!

My name is Kai Duponte, and I am writing in support of SB 3034 (RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION). I was Project Director for the Child Welfare Education Collaboration from September 2001 through June 2011.

The Project's goals were twofold: to recruit students who were training to be master's level professionals in the field of social work to work for the DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS), as well as to professionalize the work force at CWS for those workers who did not already have MSW degrees. The curriculum in the program helped to create not only good social workers, but good Child Welfare Professionals. Along with general courses in social work at the University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School Of Social Work, students in the program took courses that helped them to specialize in child welfare. Field Integration Seminars and a Child Welfare class were provided to them to help them understand the ideal role of the professional in child welfare. Great emphasis was placed on understanding the importance of what can be a very complex balance of attempting to keep families together while also protecting the safety of the children in the system. These workers make crucial decisions in people's lives that affect whether a family stays together or a child's safety is maintained, and I cannot emphasize enough the importance of ensuring that the CWS workers have the necessary training and education for their roles as CWS workers.

Probably the largest reason for the program ending was as a result of hiring freezes that prevented the graduates of the program from being allowed to work at CWS as they had trained for. I would like to communicate my strong support of funding for this program to be approved and for the reinstatement of this important service to the community.

Sincerely,

Kai Duponte

Kai Duponte, MSW
2694 Kamelani Loop
Pukalani, HI 96768

808-342-3234

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kuuleilani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3034 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 12:38:06 PM

SB3034

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristine Palaualelo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: As an MSW graduate of the HCWEC, I would like to submit my testimony in support of this bill. Without this program, I (and many of my HCWEC classmates) could not have afforded to further our education and receive our MSW degrees. Further, the importance of filling vacant Child Welfare positions at DHS with educated, qualified and passionate individuals (like those who are selected into the HCWEC program) must be recognized. Child Welfare is a difficult field. Shortages and vacancies in Child Welfare positions create overworked, stressed staff, and, ultimately, the Children of Hawaii, cannot be adequately protected. The HCWEC is an excellent win-win for individuals who want to work in this field and for the State who needs these people. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments in support of this bill.

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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