

SB 3034

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION.
Report Title:	Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration; University of Hawaii School of Social Work; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	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 school of social work for child welfare positions at the department of human services.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HMS/HRE, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, SOLOMON, Espero, Ihara, Kahele, Ruderman, Taniguchi, Wakai



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 2:45 pm
by

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

SB 3034 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION

Chairs Chun Oakland and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Green and Kahele, and members of the committees:

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 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.

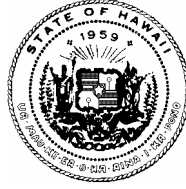
MBTSSW is uniquely positioned to support HCWEC due to previous collaborative efforts with DHS/CWS as well as our capacity to deliver the MSW degree program to students who reside on each of the neighbor islands, thus ensuring funds appropriate to the HCWEC support DHS/CWS workforce development statewide.

I encourage the committees to amend SB 3034 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.

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 4, 2014

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2014; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 3034 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.

This legislation would restore the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC) which 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.

If this bill passes, the Department respectfully suggests extending the minimum employment for the participants from a minimum of two years after graduation to **three** years after graduation (page 2, line 18). In 1998 to 2008, graduates in the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration agreed to be employed with Child Welfare Services (CWS) for a minimum of two years; however, the Department suggests increasing this requirement to three years of employment with CWS. This will help CWS to retain for a longer period, the trained and experienced social workers.

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 including social workers, child abuse protective services workers, human services professional, social services assistants and support staff. 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 would 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. The

curriculum includes risk and safety assessment, understanding trauma, child development, mental health, domestic violence, family dynamics and forensic training – interviewing, navigating civil and family court systems, providing expert testimony, etc. Students would graduate with a Masters in Social Work degree and would be employed with Child Welfare Services after graduation, for a minimum of three years. The projected annual cost of the HCWEC is \$353,176 of which 75% is State funded (\$264,882) and 25% Federally funded (\$88,294).

The HCWEC would be a vital recruitment tool to help fill critical CWS vacant positions, and assist the Department in meeting federal and state statutory mandates to keep children safe and avoid financial penalties. 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 outcome of children in Hawaii.

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



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

October 29, 2013

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

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: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 2:45 p.m. Location: State Capitol, Room 414

Senator Chun Oakland, Chair, and members of the Committee on Human Services and Senator Taniguchi, Chair, and members of the Committee on Higher Education, 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.



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

HEARING: Tuesday February 4, 2014
2:45 pm
Conference Room 414

FROM: Linda Santos, President & CEO
Family Programs Hawai'i

RE: SB 3034 – Relating to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Family Programs Hawai'i (FPH) provides services to prevent children from entering the foster care system, supports children and families who are already involved in the system and assists youth transition from foster care. Many of the direct service positions at FPH require a Masters in Social Work..

Child welfare service is one of the most difficult human service areas to work in. It takes special people and special training and support. The child welfare education collaboration (1998-2008) was a huge success, providing the Department of Human Services (DHS) with a cadre of well trained, experienced social workers. This collaboration was also important because it gave the University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and Child Welfare Services (CWS) a wonderful opportunity to work together. The community and DHS/CWS has suffered from the loss. The vacancy rate in CWS is very high and the remaining workers have to carry higher than reasonable case loads. This situation is not good for the families and children and makes it much more difficult for CWS to institute innovative practices and meet Federal guidelines.

Many of the previous collaboration trained MSW's have stayed with the Department and some have continued serving child welfare youth and families through Purchase of Service programs at private agencies such as Family Programs Hawai'i. Either way, they continue to provide quality services to this vulnerable population.

Family Program Hawai'i strongly supports SB – 3034 and urges the Legislature to fund the Child Welfare Collaboration.

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 keeping 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

Cheri Tarutani, MSW, LCSW



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

RE: Testimonial Support for SB3034
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Hearing Time: 2:45 pm
Place: Conference Room 414

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Green, Senator Taniguchi, Senator Kahele 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. Thank you Senator Chun Oakland for your unwavering commitment to child welfare and the most vulnerable keiki in Hawaii. Thank you Senator Taniguchi for your understanding that this unique and challenging work is best served with opportunities in higher education.

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 encourage students to consider the area of public child welfare to start their careers, and prepare 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 Senators Chun Oakland and Taniguchi and I humbly request that the committee members support this bill with passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Cheri Tarutani

SB3034

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HMS/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan E. Fujishiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and hope that the legislature has the wisdom to pass it.

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

COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES & HIGHER EDUCATION

Honorable, Suzanne Chun Oakland & Brian Taniguchi, Chairpersons
Honorable, Josh Green & Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chairpersons
Tuesday February 4, 2014
2:45 p.m.
Room 414

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

Please vote yes to pass this bill and 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 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.

I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB3034 in regards to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration Project (HCWECP) with University of Hawaii School of Social Work and The Department of Human Services. As a HCWECP graduate from 2010 I have nothing but positives to share about this educational collaboration program. I am grateful for my education and training I received and have used much of my knowledge to inform my work in the Child Welfare field. It is important to continue to educate and train quality Child Welfare Workers who protect our most vulnerable population.

Thank you,

Sarah Meyer, MSW, LSW, MHP

20 HCWECP Graduate

January 31, 2014

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Re: SB 3404 RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION.

Position: **Support of SB 3404**

Over the last decade I have been a social worker in the State of Hawaii both with the Department of Human Services and the Judiciary working with children. The State of Hawaii needs more highly educated and qualified social workers to more effectively work with and support our children and families. Over the years, cuts to the budget have severely cut the number of social workers that provide vital services to families in Hawaii, costing us an untold amount of children being placed into foster care and not being able to access the services and direction they so desperately need. There is no substitute for educated and qualified social workers, which is why I stand in support of SB 3404.

Sincerely,

William Maemori
P.O. Box 240374
Honolulu, Hawaii 96824

SB3034

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HMS/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Cobangbang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB3034

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HMS/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Having qualified and trained social workers is essential for Hawaii's keiki. The UH School of Social Work education collaboration program has been effective and deserves support.

SB3034

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HMS/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Adric	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Sharon Adric (formerly Sharon Lucas). I am currently a supervisor with the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch and a 2003 graduate of the University of Hawaii School of Social Work, graduate program and an alumni of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration Program. I have been with CWS for the past 10 years and witnessed the devastating aftermath of the Reduction of Force. Many long time CWS workers left shortly after, leaving DHS with less staff and a larger load to carry. We continue to recover from the loss. I have been a supervisor since September, 2011 and continue to have vacancies in my unit. There are many more vacancies throughout the entire CWS branch. The HCWEC Program is needed to continue the mission of CWS with trained Child Welfare workers to fill these vacancies. I am strong support of this bill and would like to see this bill passed. Thank you for your time and consideration Sincerely, Sharon Adric, MSW Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch University of Hawaii Master's of Social Work Program, 2003 Alumni of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration