



Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair
House Labor & Public Employment Committee

Thursday, February 20, 2014
Conference Room 211
9:00 am

In support of:

SB 3034 SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Child Welfare Education
Collaboration

Dear Senators Ige and Kidani and committee members,

I am in strong support of SB 3034. The HCWEC helps to provide a high level of education and training for social workers in preparation for careers in child welfare. As stated in the bill, CWS is facing a significant shortage of social workers. Such a shortage makes it exponentially more difficult to do a job that is challenging in the best of circumstances. Reinstating the HCWEC is an important step towards infusing the department with more highly educated, trained, and skilled social workers.

I am a proud graduate of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC) and worked for Child Welfare Services (CWS) for seven years (two years prior to entering the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and five years after graduation). I continue to utilize the skills and knowledge gained through the HCWEC in my current position to help support children and families in need.

I urge the committee to vote in support of SB 3034 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lauri Yamashita, MSW

LATE



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, **Chair**
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, **Vice Chair**
Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Thursday February 20, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

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.

Robin Gene Arndt

February 19, 2014



Testimonial Support for SB3034

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 20, 2014

9:00 AM

Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robin Arndt, I am a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Hawaii and I strongly support SB3034. I appreciate the opportunity submit testimony in support of an often over looked need in the State.

Child Welfare Services (CSW) provides support to the states most vulnerable children and families. As such, CWS is in need of trained personnel who are equipped to handle the demands of the position. This bill would support the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC). This collaboration would allow for specialized training that addresses the evolving needs of a professional social worker in child welfare.

Funding this collaborative would elevate the work that is already being done. It would provide education on new knowledge and techniques related to the practice of child welfare. It would assist new workers with understanding the complexities of family systems. It would equip the next generation of child welfare social workers with necessary tools to be successful. This collaborative will build a stronger workforce dedicated to the safety and protection of Hawaii's families.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I humbly request your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Robin Arndt

91-1136 Hoili'ili Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

(808) 224-8212

rgarndt@gmail.com