

SB 1023

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 Myron B. Thompson school of social work for child welfare positions at the department of human services.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, DELA CRUZ, KIDANI, Taniguchi



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
February 3, 2015 at 1:45pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

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

SB 1023 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing:

As the Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work (MBT SSW) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa I am pleased to support SB 1023 which funds the opportunity for collaboration between the MBT SSW and DHS/CWS. SB 1023 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 at Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for child welfare positions at the Department of Human Services.

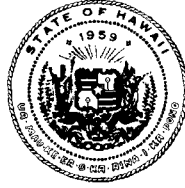
MBT SSW and DHS/CWS have a history of collaboration and partnership in successfully recruiting and training social work students to work in the child welfare field in Hawai'i. If approved, the funding allocation for HCWEC will address well documented work force shortages within child welfare services.

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.

We support your favorable consideration of SB 1023 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 2, 2015

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

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1023 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE
EDUCATION COLLABORATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2015; 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1023 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, with concerns for potential effects on the priorities in the Executive Biennium 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.

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 quality social workers. As of December 31, 2014, CWS had 77 vacant positions. At the same time, CWS staff are retiring or transferring to other jobs. This situation is compounded by the fact that 50% of CWS workers are age 50 or older. 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, and more. 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 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 outcomes for children in Hawaii.

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

Cheri Tarutani, MSW, LCSW



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RE: Testimonial Support for SB1023

Hearing Date: February 3, 2015

Hearing Time: 1:45 pm

Place: Room 016

Aloha Senators Chun Oakland, Green 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 SB1023. Thank you Senator Chun Oakland for your unwavering commitment to child welfare and the most vulnerable keiki in Hawaii. It is with much gratitude that I submit this testimony.

After I graduated with my MSW in 2003 as a HCWEC graduate, I worked at Child Welfare Services (CWS) for almost seven years. All HCWEC alumni share a continued connection due to the unique work that we dedicate ourselves to. With diversion services in place, child welfare social workers manage the most serious and severe cases.

After leaving CWS, I continue to support child welfare workers in my current faculty position at the school of social work by promoting public child welfare work as the most rewarding career choice a child and family social work graduate student can make. HCWEC graduates whom I am in contact with are either still employed with CWS or in positions that support the Department (i.e., employed with DOE, DOH, Judiciary, POS agencies, etc.). 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.

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. Funding the collaborative will be money well spent.

Again, thank you Senators Chun Oakland and Green and I humbly request that the committee members support this bill with passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Cheri Tarutani