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February 5, 2016

TO: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

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

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2386, Relating to Child Abuse

Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill as teachers and students need to know and recognize child abuse and neglect in order to protect children or children to protect themselves, and obtain the help they need. The DHS offers the following comments: it is not necessary to legislate the DHS, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE) to develop signage publicizing the CWS hotline number, as the current collaboration between the DHS and the DOE, along with access to the internet provide adequate access for DOE staff and students to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to increase access and visibility of the Child Welfare Services hotline number within the DOE schools and charter schools.

The DHS receives reports of suspected child abuse and neglect through the Child Welfare Services 24- hour hotline. The hotline number for Oahu and toll free number for the neighbor islands are prominently posted in the "CALL 911 EMERGENCY CALLS" in the front of the Hawaiian Telcom White and Yellow Pages phone books and under the State Office section in the White

Pages. These reporting numbers are also listed on the DHS webpage and other websites on the internet.

The Department of Human Services works closely with the DOE to provide in-service training to its staff regarding the mandated reporter responsibilities and Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS) 350, Child Abuse and HRS 587A, Child Protection Act.

Additionally, the DHS will explore with the DOE to identify appropriate modes of communication (i.e. social media) to effectively communicate with students to raise their awareness of abuse and neglect. This outreach to children will take time to develop age appropriate messaging for school aged children, and may require an appropriation of general funds to develop and implement. The Department will defer to DOE on the curriculum.

If the committee is intent on print media, this may require an appropriation of general funds to develop and implement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** Submitted testimony for SB2386 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM  
**Subject:** Friday, February 05, 2016 10:08:32 AM  
**Date:**

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**LATE**

**SB2386**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebeca Zamora	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support 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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