



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 20, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 16/HR 13 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND JUDICIARY TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY STATE YOUTH NETWORK OF CARE TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES WITH COMPLEX NEEDS IN THE STATE.**

Hearing: Thursday March 22, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports these resolutions. DHS is committed to continue to work together to improve systems and processes to address the complex needs of Hawaii's children and families, especially those children involved in multiple systems. DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) Branch, and the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) have been participating partners with the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HI-SYNC), and recognizes the value of consistent collaboration among child-serving agencies of the state to best meet the needs of the children, youth, and families served by these systems.

As a department, DHS serves one in four of Hawaii's residents and nearly half of its children. The programs we implement supports residents' ability to achieve well-being in a holistic sense. We address key elements of well-being such as financial assistance, access to insurance coverage and healthcare, access to food and nutrition, child care and early childhood learning opportunities, public housing, homelessness, juvenile justice, support services for families experiencing domestic violence, protective services for children and

vulnerable adults, and employment opportunities and vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities.

We are working diligently to incorporate 'Ohana Nui, a multigenerational framework that invests early and concurrently in children and families within our department, with other state agencies, and with community stakeholders, to improve health, education, employment, and other outcomes for Hawaii residents. This approach will allow us to more efficiently align programs and funding to make a greater impact on the whole person and the whole family.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

HR-13

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 5:06:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: