

SB-3028

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 6:14:03 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3028

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 6:45:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

AAUW-Hawaii supports this bill.



February 5, 2018

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 3028 – Relating to Child Support**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 16, February 5, 2018, 3:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing in support of SB 3028, which would require child support to pass through to families receiving public assistance as well as require that passed-through child support payments be disregarded when determining the needs of an applicant for public assistance.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, child support payments accounted for over 70.3 percent of annual income for custodial parents living below poverty who received full child support nationally in 2013. Unfortunately, many of Hawaii's families may never see a penny of the child support payments owed to them. Under our state's current child support system, a parent who owes child support to a family receiving TANF must pay that child support to the State of Hawaii, up to the amount of TANF benefits paid. The state uses the money to reimburse itself and the federal government for providing TANF assistance.

This money could make a big difference to families who are struggling to put food on the table. Through similar laws and policies adopted in other states, we know that child support pass-through laws benefit state governments. This bill, if passed into law, would likely aid in the collection of child support, since when non-custodial parents can see that their child support dollars are going directly to their children, they are more likely to make timely payments.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



February 5, 2018

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Human Services

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 3028 Relating to Child Support
Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:45 p.m., Room 016

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

The Hawaii State Women's Democratic Caucus writes in strong support of SB 3028 Relating to Child Support which requires child support to be passed through by the Department of Human Services to the family receiving the public assistance.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, child support payments accounted for over 70.3 percent of annual income for custodial parents living below poverty who received full child support nationally in 2013. If all the custodial parents living in poverty in the nation received full amounts of child support in 2015, approximately 200,000 of them would have been raised out of poverty.

Under our state's current child support system, a parent who owes child support to a family receiving TANF must pay that child support to the State of Hawai'i (up to the amount of TANF benefits paid). The state then uses the money to reimburse itself and the federal government for providing TANF assistance.

In 2016, approximately 800 families would have benefitted from child support pass-through payments, providing them with just over \$1.5 million per year. Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia already have adopted child support pass-through laws or policies.

Hawai'i already has a bad track record on child support. Since 2003 Hawai'i has ranked last in collecting child support debts. Presently, families in Hawai'i and the state are owed more than \$484 million in child support arrears.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls.

We ask for the committee's support to pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.