



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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March 21, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 11/SR 10 – 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: Friday, March 23, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, 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.

SR-10

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:48:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Date: 03/23/2018
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate

Person Testifying: Stanford H. Puahi, Jr.

Title of bill: SR 10

Purpose of bill: Urging the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the 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.

The reason I am backing this bill, is because of all the positive affects that it may have on the future generation of keikis. Having a program like the Hawaii State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC) can, illuminate a lot of the stressors that are put on the parents who are trying to get help for there child but cannot because a certain agency cannot let go information without the proper paperwork that needs to be filled out, and often times the parents of these children who need the help lack the understanding or skills to fill out these forms which eventually robs the child of help and also leads them into harms way.

Example: I've been a volunteer basketball coach in Kalihi for over 19yrs, through my years of coaching there has always been a hand full of kids who had so much potential and a great future ahead of them, have their dreams of playing sports cut down because of a simple paper that their parents didn't want to sign. Which eventually lead to the kid from playing sports, to a life filled with drugs, violence and for some, jail time. It wasn't because the parents didn't want to fill out the paper the parents were just shame to ask for help, because they had no idea what they were filing out.

That's why having an agency like (HISYNC), not only helps the child, but also helps the parents receive the help and guidance to be able to access the multitude of resources, that will award the child the proper help and opportunities to become a positive contributor in life, and as well as a positive influence in the community he or she grew up in.

That is why I support bill SR 10

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Stanford H. Puahi, Jr.
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