



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1173, S.D. 1, RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Lynette J. Lau, Administrator, Child Support Enforcement Agency

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

This bill amends sections 571-52.2, 576D-5, and 576E-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes in order to bring the State of Hawaii into compliance with federal law.

Under 42 U.S.C. § 666(b)(6)(D), each state must have in effect laws requiring the imposition of a fine against any employer who (a) discharges from employment, refuses to employ, or takes disciplinary action against any noncustodial parent subject to income withholding or (b) fails to withhold support from income or pay the amounts to a child support agency.

Under 42 U.S.C. § 654(6)(B)(ii), each state must increase the annual collection fee from \$25 to \$35 assessed on all state IV-D cases that have not received assistance under the state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The law also revises the amount from \$500 to \$550 that the state must collect and disburse to the family before imposing the fee each federal fiscal year.

Compliance with these requirements is necessary to maintain eligibility for federal funding of child support enforcement programs. In addition, amending the income withholding requirements increases the effectiveness of the income withholding process and protects the obligor parent from employment discrimination as a result of having an income withholding order being issued against the individual.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

SB-1173-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:13:03 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1173 as child support income is important to a child's ability to thrive in our society, and both parents need to contribute towards their care, regardless if they have custody or not.

Our state has set up a system to determine what is "fair" based on formulas, so all parties should have been allowed to present their financial documents. Minor children are the innocent parties, so laws need to support their financial needs.

Any party that prevents this necessary process should be fined as per SB guidelines.

Thank you for allowing public testimony.