



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

December 26, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki
Speaker and Members of the House
of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII
REVISED STATUTES, ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and members of the Legislature,

Attached is the following report submitted in accordance with:

- SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, copies of these reports have been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library and the reports may be viewed electronically at <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts
Deputy Director

Ecopy only:

Office of the Governor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Department of Budget & Finance
Legislative Auditor
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, House Committee on Human Services &
Homelessness

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2020

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,
ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
December 2019**

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I. Background

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Act 232 specified "the proceeds of the account shall be reserved for use by the department of human services for staff programs and grants or purchases of service . . . that support or provide spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention as authorized by law." The funds originally came from fees for marriage licenses.

Act 216 of the Nineteenth Legislature, 1997, increased the DHS Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

Act 177 of the Twenty-First Legislature, 2002, increased the DHS Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow DHS to fund additional program needs. The ceiling was further raised to \$610,000 per Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008.

In the State's Thirtieth Legislature, 2019, the administration proposed, SB 1231 that became Act 84, SLH 2019 on June 7, 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amends section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund to receive Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year in which the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to \$3,000,000. The amendment was in preparation for the ending of Hawaii's Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019; the end of the waiver will result in a reduction of federal funds by an estimated 15 percent. Act 84, SLH 2019, also changed the name of the fund from Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) to Spouse and Child Abuse Special *Fund* (SCASF). In SFY 2020, the appropriation ceiling was not added to the department's base budget, so the administration has included a budget request to raise the ceiling to \$3,000,000 for the 2020 session.

SCASF is administered by DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS); and DHS is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, providing an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the account.

II. SFY 2018 BUDGET

A. Balance on 7/1/18	\$2,105
B. SFY 2019 REVENUE	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$287,046
Miscellaneous	\$35,602
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	\$122,343
Subtotal Revenue	\$444,991
Total Revenue	\$447,096
C. SFY 2019 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBERENCES	
1. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$40,000
2. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$30
3. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$504
4. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$27,750
5. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$1,489
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	\$69,772
D. Carry-over to SFY 2020	\$377,324

III. SFY 2020 BUDGET

E. Balance on 7/1/19	\$377,324
F. SFY 2020 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue all sources	\$445,000
Total Projected Revenue	\$822,324
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2020	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$300,000
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$200,000
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$40,000
4. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$20,000
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$40,000
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$34,000
7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$5,000
8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	\$30,000
9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	\$153,324
Total Planned Expenditures	\$822,324
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/20	\$0

IV. SFY 2019 Outcomes

1. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Hawaii hosts an annual conference which featured national and local experts presenting on a wide range of Child Welfare Services (CWS)-relevant topics, such as teen dating violence, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, evidence-based practices in child welfare, culturally-informed service-delivery, and the use of psychotropic medication with youth in foster care. The contribution of funds by CWS allowed 32 CWS staff to attend this learning opportunity in SFY 2019. The support of CWS to bring this conference to its staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii’s CWS staff and community partners at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice, especially since Hawaii is geographically isolated and CWS staff and community providers cannot easily attend national conferences outside of Hawaii. Increasing staff's knowledge and experiences enables them to better serve Hawaii’s children and families.

2. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel

DHS financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) which is required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The purpose of the CRP is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities by (1) examining the policies, procedures and practices of the State, and (2) reviewing specific cases, where appropriate. Funding provides airfare, mileage, and car rental reimbursements for neighbor island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. This allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining the CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

In SFY 2019, Hawaii's CRP focused on CRP serving as an advisory board in a forum where CWS front line staff voice their concerns to administrators, and developing a "joy ambassador" program on Oahu, similar to the therapy canine program in CWS Maui. Members of the CRP were able to hear staff concerns and shepherd the concerns through resolution, which has aided in staff retention. CRP was successful in arranging several visits to Oahu CWS staff by trained canine joy ambassadors. The response to these visits has been very positive. The ambassadors are easing the stress for many CWS workers, which helps staff to focus and make the best decisions possible for Hawaii families.

3. CWS Management Leadership Team

SCASF also funded the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiatives which brings together CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors statewide once a quarter. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans to enhance services to CWS children and families; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, reviews statewide and local data, and examines the implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

In SFY 2019, CWS continued its work in its MLT focusing on national measures and standards as CWS is in its third federally-mandated Program Improvement Plan (PIP3), based on a 2017 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) thorough statewide assessment of cases and systemic factors.

The planned efforts and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will lead to improved practice and services, help Hawaii meets its PIP3 goals, and will ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

4. DAGS (Department of Accounting and General Services) Special Fund Assessment

To fulfill its fiscal obligation to DAGS, in SFY 2019, DHS paid \$27,750 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment.

5. Domestic Violence (DV) Training and DV Fatality Review

In SFY 2019, CWS collaborated with other agencies and community providers to develop and implement a statewide training on working with families who are experiencing domestic violence, with approximately 300 attendees. Partners included: the Department of Health, Family Court, the Attorney General's Office, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Parents and Children Together, Child and Family Service, Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter, Women Helping Women, Molokai Community Service Council, YWCA of Kauai, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

Our CWS data shows that approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are also struggling with domestic violence.

The Department of Health convenes DV Fatality Reviews, approximately quarterly, where specific cases are thoroughly reviewed, examined, and assessed by experts from various disciplines (e.g., health care, psychology, social work, public health, hotel industry, public safety, fire protection, government, and education) to make needed system and community changes to reduce the occurrence of DV and its lethal effects.

V. Planned Use of Funds for SFY 2020

1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Family Wrap Hawaii Services are provided to families with children in foster care. The children may be able to be reunified with their family, however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program are engaged with multiple agencies which help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and/or substance use; others have children with behavioral challenges and physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma, and additionally have learning differences that are difficult to address. Family Wrap Hawaii Services brings agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. It coordinates services with the providers and the family to develop creative ways to remove the barriers to reunification. CWS partners with DOE, DOH, Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to safely return to their family.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2019, 25 children in foster care were able to safely reunify with their families. Families expressed feeling profoundly supported by the Family Wrap Hawaii Services, and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received. CWS hopes to serve an additional 30 children with this program in SFY 2020.

2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center

Federal Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), requires CWS in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompanied the Act. CWS plans to use these funds to offer

counseling, advocacy, and support to trafficked children throughout the State by trained and experienced individuals working with this specialized population.

In SFY 2019, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 23 confirmed minor trafficking survivors, and served an additional 49 potential trafficking victims, as well as numerous family members of the victims. Without these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

CWS plans to serve approximately 60 minor trafficking victims through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2020.

3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide

Please see Section IV.1. above. CWS plans to continue to contribute to the funding of this annual conference, including the attendance of a portion of CWS direct-service staff.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel (CRP)

Please see Section IV.2. above. DHS plans to continue its federal obligation to fund the CRP.

In SFY 2020, the CRP plans to further assist CWSB in workforce support and development. This work will include further development of the CRP as an advisory board for line staff to voice their concerns to administrators. They will be able to act as neutral parties and advocate when necessary for staff issues. The CRP will also work to expand the "joy ambassador" program on Oahu, and begin the program on Hawaii Island and Kauai. Given the highly stressful nature of CWS work, receiving comfort from a furry, non-judgmental, loving being can help CWS staff function in top form. Bringing trained canine joy ambassadors into the work place helps with staff retention as well.

5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)

Please see Section IV.3. above which outlines the purpose of CWS Management Leadership Team. In SFY 2020, among other projects and initiatives, the MLT will be working on continued coordination and implementation of Hawaii's CFSR PIP3.¹ Successful completion of the plan and the corresponding performance improvement is required to continue to receive federal funding.

Additionally, over the next year, CWS will be preparing to implement its federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA) plan. MLT meetings will focus on sharing information with staff, engagement, developing, and implementing Hawaii's FFPSA plan.

6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

To remain current with its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay \$34,000 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment in SFY 2020.

¹ CFSR PIP is the Child and Family Services Reviews-Program Improvement Plan 3 required by the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children & Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review

Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are identified as being impacted by domestic violence. In SFY 2020, CWS will continue collaboration with other State agencies and community providers to build awareness, ensure DV services are available, and to thoroughly review fatality cases to ensure the needed response to community domestic violence.

8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)

CWS is part of a statewide multidisciplinary group of professionals, largely from other State agencies, who work with children and their families. This group is working to break down systemic barriers so that collaboration across agencies occurs smoothly. CWS and the other member agencies contribute funds to this collaborative to ensure its continuation and to help families with needed services.

In SFY 2018, HISYNC proposed a resolution that was passed by the Legislature, 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 (HISYNC) to better serve youth and families with complex needs in the State. This official recognition promotes for the continuation of the HISYNC committee beyond the existing membership, directing efforts of all entities toward better coordination and collaboration.

Also in SFY 2018, through the collaboration of HISYNC partners, the first Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued, as a joint effort between DHS/CWS, DHS/OYS, DOH/ADAD and DOH/CAMHD, to procure a joint crisis home for youth with high needs who cannot be maintained in their homes, yet do not meet criteria for other placement settings.

In SFY 2019, the contract for the joint crisis home for youth with high needs was awarded to Child and Family Services (CFS). This contract was the first of its kind in the State. In SFY 2020, among other projects, HISYNC will focus energy on guiding, monitoring, and shaping the new contracted service.

9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu

Hawaii CWS contracts with local community social service agencies to provide crucial sex abuse treatment services to CWS families in need. On Oahu, CWS currently contracts with Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). The contract serves minor victims of parental sexual abuse, siblings, non-perpetrating parents, and parental perpetrators of minor sex abuse. These services include: assessment, skill building, individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy, as clinically indicated. Offenders are held accountable for their actions. Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions.