

Honolulu, Hawaii  
, 2022

FEB 10

RE: H.B. No. 2424  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 2424 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the investigative power of the Department of Human Services to include children who have been adopted or placed in legal guardianship and whose families are receiving financial assistance through the State;
- (2) Expand the investigative power of the Department of Human Services to include children in the foster care system for whom there is a pending petition for adoption and the child is pendente lite or for whom an adoption decree has been issued but the child has not yet been placed in the custody of the adoption petitioner;
- (3) Establish and appropriate funds to create a crisis mobile outreach team pilot program to provide additional support and expansion of services for existing crisis response services;



- (4) Appropriate funds for additional case workers and support staff; and
- (5) Appropriate funds to increase compensation for existing child welfare services case worker positions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health and fifteen individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Human Services and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance, Department of the Attorney General, and Waimanalo Neighborhood Board No. 32.

Your Committee finds that additional measures are needed to strengthen the network of state systems that protect and ensure the safety and security for at-risk children who are under the protection and legal jurisdiction of the State and have been placed with an adoptive family or are under legal guardianship. Your Committee further finds that oversight of adoptive families and legal guardians who receive adoption assistance or permanency payments is currently limited to biannual forms where the beneficiary indicates whether the beneficiary still qualifies for and desire to receive assistance payments. This measure will provide additional safeguards for at-risk children by expanding the investigative authority of the Department of Human Services to include families where a child has been adopted or placed into legal guardianship.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

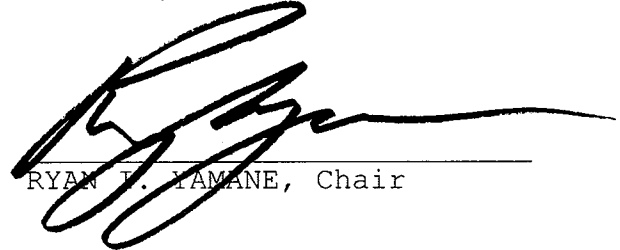
- (1) Deleting a portion of the preamble to narrow the scope of the legislative intent;
- (2) Limiting the review or investigation of adoptive families and legal guardians to families where a complaint has been lodged with the Department of Human Services at any time, including any time prior to adoption or awarding of legal guardianship;
- (3) Deleting the crisis mobile outreach team pilot program and associated appropriation;



- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2424, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2424, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health, Human  
Services, & Homelessness,



RYAN T. YAMANE, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-first Legislature

HSCR 149-22

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 2424	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HHH, CPC, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 02/03/2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HHH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. YAMANE, Ryan I. (C)	✓			
2. TAM, Adrian K. (VC)	✓			
3. GATES, Cedric Asuega	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
6. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene	✓			
<b>TOTAL (7)</b>	<b>7</b>			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 10pt;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				