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April 2, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2141 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

HEARING: April 5, 2022, 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure. We appreciate the SD1 amendments and request the measure pass as is.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to remove outdated reporting requirements for the Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services. (SD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical amendments. The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Making it effective upon its approval; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Updating the law will clarify the current state of the law and reduce confusion. Removing outdated reporting requirements will reduce the administrative burden on the

department and improve efficiencies. The public will not be impacted by deleting the reporting requirements.

The proposal deletes section 346-59.9(h), HRS, which requires reporting on brand-name and generic psychotropic prescriptions and the amount expended on each. Reporting from the last ten years indicates positive trends that meet the intent of Act 205, SLH 2010, to maintain access to psychotropic medications and explore cost savings through the use of generic brands. The report does not serve a useful purpose as the information is not used for decision-making or any other purpose. Removal of the reporting requirement will not impact the remainder of section 346-59.9, HRS.

The proposal deletes section 346-54, HRS, in its entirety. Since the section was last revised by Act 137, SLH 1988, there have been major changes to federal financial assistance and health care programs, rendering the information requested no longer relevant to determine the adequacy of the assistance allowance as provided in chapter 346, HRS. Additionally, modification to existing programs based on general fund adequacy is handled through the budget process or an emergency appropriation if there is a revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year.

The report required by section 6 of Act 281, SLH 2006, to be submitted to the Legislature by the Office of Youth Services is no longer necessary as the programs identified are no longer funded or implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.