

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 12, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

HEARING: February 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to remove outdated reporting requirements for the Department of Human Services, including the Office of Youth Services. Effective upon approval.

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.

The public will not be impacted by deleting the reporting requirements. Updating the law will clarify the current state of the law and reduce confusion. Removing the reporting requirements will reduce the administrative burden on the department and improve efficiencies.

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