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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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January 26, 2022

TO: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2415 – RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.**

HEARING: January 27, 2022, 3:10 pm
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides the following comments and requests clarification.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure adds a requirement that the Department of Human Services expunge a report or reports when the department finds that a miscarriage of justice would persist if the report or reports were not expunged. Requires the Department of Human Services to provide notice to all parties who are placed on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. Provides an avenue for persons on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry to petition for removal from the Registry.

DHS recognizes that individuals with confirmed child welfare reports, over time, can and do make significant life changes where they are likely no longer a threat to children. We also appreciate that child welfare involvement disproportionately impacts individuals who may themselves be victims of abuse or have histories of other adversities. However, the Registry is an important tool used to assess whether a person should be entrusted with the care of children or vulnerable adults. We respectfully request clarification regarding the circumstances that would permit confirmed reports of child abuse or neglect to be removed from the Registry.

DHS requests clarification regarding the proposed Section 2 as it would not accomplish the bill proponent's intent to address the issues raised by Bird v. Hawaii. Section 2 establishes new administrative and judicial reviews that, as drafted, paragraph (a) creates a perpetual process as the proposed amendment will allow an individual to file another petition a year after a denial of a previous petition. Paragraph (b) likewise creates an administrative appeal process in accordance with Chapter 91 that, as drafted, would similarly allow annual administrative appeals of a previous denial of the petition and consequently multiple circuit court reviews.

Paragraph (c) is in direct conflict with section 571-11(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which gives exclusive original jurisdiction to the presiding family court in a Chapter 587A case. If Section 2 became law, potentially, the petition to the department, the administrative appeal, the circuit court, and the family court in a Chapter 587A case could all have consistent findings of abuse or neglect, and the person would still be allowed to petition to have their record expunged on an annual basis. Another potential of Section 2 would be conflicting court opinions in cases involving the same facts; these opposing court opinions could be simultaneous or years apart.

Section 3 of the measure amends 350-2, HRS, by requiring the department to give timely notice to all parties placed on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, and adding a third way for a person, who presumably did not meet existing provisions of section 350-2, HRS, for their report(s) to be expunged.

CWS provides notice to all parties placed on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. CWS sends letters to all alleged perpetrators of child abuse and or neglect to officially inform them of the disposition (or outcome) of the CWS investigation, i.e., whether or not DHS confirmed the allegations. The letter also informs the recipient of their status on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry and explains its impact.

DHS requests further clarification of what circumstances the Legislature intends to address as a "miscarriage of justice." Without a clear definition, DHS, an administrative hearings officer, or a Hawaii State court on appeal may have differing interpretations on what circumstances result in a "miscarriage of justice." If the "miscarriage of justice" includes information that supports a person's rehabilitation, what should DHS or other fact-finders

consider as evidence of rehabilitation? Having clearer parameters or criteria of what is meant by a "miscarriage of justice" will form the basis of a standard for different fact-finders.

For the Legislature's information, the federal Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) Section 106 requires states to have procedures in place that facilitate the prompt expungement of any records used for purposes of employment or other background checks in cases determined to be unsubstantiated or false. Further, this section includes a provision that allows state child protective agencies to keep information on unsubstantiated reports in their casework files to assist in future risk and safety assessments.

In 2017, Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (Act 16), conformed State law to federal law. Act 16 clarified that records and information contained in child abuse and neglect reports expunged from the Registry may be retained by the DHS solely for future risk and safety assessment purposes. CWS expunges reports with no child abuse or neglect findings from the Registry, so the expunged report cannot be used for employment or background check purposes.

DHS would like to clarify the following:

- The Child Abuse and Neglect Registry and CWS records are not publicly accessible. CWS requires individuals to provide signed consent for DHS to release any Registry information to third parties. CWS does not provide any recommendations to third parties on evaluating the information in the Registry. Third parties must analyze a person's fitness in the context of their request as provided by the particular employer's or industry's standards or regulations.
- CWS removes reports from the Registry when confirmed dispositions are overturned as provided by current section 350-2, HRS. Therefore, CWS maintains only confirmed reports of child abuse and or neglect in the Registry.
- The CWS disposition letter (see discussion above) also informs the recipient of the processes to contest the CWS disposition through an administrative hearing according to Chapter 91, HRS. The administrative hearing is a department review of the facts of the case and can potentially change the official disposition. However, court-involved cases are not eligible for an administrative hearing; as discussed above, the family court has exclusive jurisdiction over the case, per section 571-11 (9), HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:29:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daisy Hartsfield	Testifying for DHS-SSD-CWS	Comments	No

Comments:

DHS written testimony already submitted. I will be providing testimony on behalf of DHS-Child Welfare Services and will be available for any questions.

LATE

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 5:23:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daisy Hartsfield	Testifying for DHS-SSD-CWS	Comments	No

Comments:

DHS written testimony already submitted. I will be providing testimony on behalf of DHS-Child Welfare Services and will be available for any questions.

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 6:35:00 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marilyn Yamamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Family Advocacy Team	Oppose	No

Comments:

January 25, 2022

Senator Sanbuenaventura,

HRS350-2 requires that names are placed onto the Central Registry at the point of referral/report to CWS. That is premature when investigation has not occurred yet. The amendment that indicates persons should be notified in a timely manner means notification of between five and six thousand reports every year. DHS child abuse reports indicate that about 2000 reports are confirmed every year and 1000+ children are placed into foster care. No placement onto the Registry should occur until a disposition of confirmed or not confirmed is made.

HAR 17-1610-24 requires a disposition letter within 60 days after a report is received by the department. The disposition letter notifies the parent that the report has been confirmed or not confirmed. Over the years, I've talked to 50 parents who, except one, never received the notification. How does the bill assure that all parents receive the Notice of Disposition?

Approximately 1000 children enter foster care every year in Hawaii. Those parents are court-involved within 72-hours after the child removal and are expected to stipulate to the charges or contest them in an adjudication. According to credible evidence, most parents are encouraged by their court appointed attorney to stipulate but are not informed that only a dismissal by the family court judge can expunge their names from the Registry per HRS350-2.

I am not clear about the "petition to the department". Is this intended to create a new procedure other than an administrative hearing? Current law states that court-involved cases are not allowed an administrative hearing.

Literally thousands of parents will not know they are on the Central Child Abuse Registry unless they apply for employment that involve children such as nursing, teaching or in the case of Courtney Bird, will be blindsided by the adoption background check.

Advocates for reform of the state Registries agree that there are injustices in the system, but it is not clear to me that this bill will remedy the challenges.

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 10:27:05 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SHANNON FRANCO	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am supporting this but i am not writing a testimony

Robert Quartero
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Tuesday, January 25, 2022

RE: SB 2415 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2022
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Dear Chair Buenaventura and members of the Committee on Human Services,

Please let this communication serve as my personal support in favor of passing SB 2415 relating to child abuse where a statutory remedy and/or an opportunity to cure is necessary for persons placed on the Hawaii Child Abuse and Neglect Registry that were not first provided adequate notice nor due process and where removal of any and all defamatory and/or injurious reports is necessary to restore a person's reputation and/or authority and to restore any and all ability to volunteer and/or to work with youth as well as to preserve the ability to foster and/or adopt a child should the opportunity arise. Currently, I am unaware of and/or, there is no clear process for notification of an assignment to the registry nor is there a clear process to a cure a defamatory or injurious report thru the Department of Human Services. I ask for your support in providing the statutory mechanism for affirmative action to protect against those instances that would otherwise result in a miscarriage of justice. I support SB 2415 and recommend the committee on Human Services take immediate action in favor of passing this bill. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

Ahui hou, e malama pono,

Robert Quartero

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 3:51:57 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in STRONG SUPPORT!

RE: SB2415

TO: Senate Human Services Committee, 2022

FROM: Shana W. Kukila, Hilo, HI

This testimony is to provide comments only on SB2415, relating to the Hawai'i child abuse registry. Here also is my personal story about my experience with the child welfare system.

On August 24, 2016, my children were unlawfully removed from my home by the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services with the help of the Hawai'i County Police Department and the Honolulu Police Department without a warrant or a court order or my knowledge. On September 24, 2016, my name was placed on the Department of Human Services Child Abuse Registry, without a court's approval or due process. I was guilty on paper according to the DHS before proven innocent, and a family court judge agreed with the state a year later, without hearing from my witnesses or considering any exculpatory evidence I presented that would prove my innocence. From then on, I have been treated as an abuser by the DHS and the family courts.

It was an extreme injustice not just to me, but to my children and my family, and I am working to correct it so it does not happen to other disabled or otherwise vulnerable children and their mothers who are survivors of family violence like we have been. From 2016-2020, while my young disabled son was in the custody of the Department of Human Services, a documented abuser, was approved by the DHS as my son's foster parent, even with his history of domestic violence with more than one woman on the court record. That man is my son's father, who also is a self admitted former methamphetamine user and dealer in his early adulthood, which led to multiple restraining orders against him, including one I had to file due to his violent and scary behavior when we were married and my son was very young. This is how it all began.

In 2008, Child Welfare Services was called anonymously about our family when we were still married, saying they were concerned about my disabled son's safety in our home due to his father's violence and inability to keep the electricity on in our home. A CWS letter sent to our home said that our children would be removed if we did not engage in family strengthening services. I quickly engaged, but my husband did not. He saw this as disloyal and was angry that someone had reported us, so he refused. I saw it as keeping our children out of foster care.

In the assessment, it was determined that there was indeed reason to believe there was domestic violence, and I was told to attend dv classes at the Lili'uokalani Children's Center in Punalu'u. It was run by the Salvation Army, and my children and I graduated from it with certificates and financial assistance. Our CWS case was still open, though. I was told by my social worker that I must leave the home of my husband or my children would be removed without me. So I left, finally. Immediately, things got worse between us and we got into physical altercations. We divorced and I moved with the kids to the Big Island to get away from the danger and keep my children safe. The rent was cheaper, and I was able to find a place for them that we could afford. On a court-ordered visit, though, my son's father did not return him from O'ahu like he was supposed to. Instead, he hid him from me and registered him in school

without my knowledge. As I was awarded sole physical and legal custody in our divorce, I was able to obtain a TRO to go get my son with a police escort. With much fear and trepidation, I was able to fly him home. In Hilo, the family court judge held a hearing for extension of the TRO, and it was extended to a three year restraining order with no contact with the dad from 2009-2012. He did not even attend the hearing to defend himself to retain visits with his son. He did not honor the TRO or restraining order. However, after the three years, he pretended to be rehabilitated and visits with my son resumed without much conflict because I retained custody.

Fast forward to 2016, my son's father used a conflict between me and my daughter to get her to accuse me of abuse so he could get custody of my son in retaliation for my leaving him and reporting abuse. He also wanted to redeem himself. DHS went along with him, despite his record and warnings from my closest friends and family who witnessed the abuse, because of what my daughter reported, even though it was false. I have not seen my daughter since because she has been groomed to believe anything he says, which is nothing good about her mother. In our domestic violence classes, we learned that perpetrators of violence will often use their children to abuse the other parent, and threaten to report them to child welfare services. Ours was a classic case of this, but the social workers would not believe it. Again, despite his record, they defended him and gave him full say over my son. I was in a twilight zone. My ex husband had kept his promise to get me back for leaving him, and nobody believed me, not even the dv service providers, all because of what the DHS had written about me and what my daughter claimed. She denied any abuse by her dad, even though she used to block my pregnant stomach when he would scream in my face. She was protecting her unborn brother from his own father, who would lift my huge pregnant body up by my shirt collar and shove me against the wall when he was angry. My daughter now aligns herself with my abuser and has repeated his words verbatim. My name on a registry keeps my children with my abuser.

From 2016-2020, my disabled son was in foster care with this man. False statements were filed against me to prove the case that I abused my son, including forged documents submitted to the court in Hilo and Honolulu. I have them all. During that time, my son was actually being assaulted on the school bus, and now his father is filing a lawsuit against the bus company trying to get a huge payout, although he is the reason my son was on that bus in the first place. When I tried to intervene to tell the school not to put my son on that bus again due to the allegations of assault and COVID19 concerns, my words and warnings were not heeded by the DOE officials or the DHS because of my "confirmation" of abuse. Suddenly, I was treated like an infidel, although I am fully trained as a Direct Support Worker for the disabled. This was also true when I shared my information with the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, who, to date, has still not prosecuted my son's abusers on the bus, even with extensive video evidence. Also on the record is the fact that my son overdosed on medication in 2018, and it was never reported to me or the court by the social workers or the GAL. I had to find out in a school report. Why wasn't this properly investigated or brought up to the family court judges that my son almost died in his father's care? My son was brutally assaulted and almost died in foster care, yet, nobody who had a duty of care for him reported it to me or the judge or law enforcement. The case against the individuals who assaulted my son on the bus is still pending. No case has ever been opened against his father who allowed him to overdose and almost die while in his care.

It is a grave injustice that it does not seem to matter to the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office or the family courts that the Department of Human Services made the wrong call which started a series of unfortunate events for my vulnerable child. For the past five years, my son has begged over and over to his teachers, therapists, doctors, social workers, and to his father and myself that he wants to come home to live with me again in Hilo. Home is where his heart is, and that is with his mother. Yet again, because of this registry, I lost custody of him. A snowball effect.

My son is still at risk in his placement today with his dad, and I hold the state of Hawai'i, his GAL, and his father responsible for what happened to him on that school bus and the trauma he has had to endure for the past 5 years being forced to live with a perpetrator of violence and a man who does not have the knowledge to properly care for him. He would be home with me safe today in Hilo if his GAL, the social workers, and the DAG alerted the courts as to what was happening to him in school and in his foster home in 2020. Not a word of it was mentioned in the family court record, which is also a grave injustice to my son. In 2020, my ex husband was awarded sole physical and legal custody of my son against his wishes, with the help of the state of Hawai'i. This is a tragedy for my child, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder and cannot communicate well. I have not seen or talked to him for almost a year due to continuing conflicts with his father, who is holding him against his will because of the lawsuit. My son still suffers.

To conclude, my love is so great for my son: I took good care of him by myself for many years with little to no financial help from his father. I do not care about my name being on some blacklist registry, I only care because this confirmation of abuse is on my record, which puts my vulnerable child at the mercy of his father who is just trying to profit off his son's pain and suffering. Nobody listens to me because my name is on this registry. Today, I humbly ask for my voice to be heard on behalf of my son and myself and the many others in our situation.

This is why I care so deeply about this issue. Here is what I believe the real focus should be:

1) Systemic Issues Need Addressing / State DHS Child Abuse Registry

The problems with the family courts and child welfare services here in Hawai'i are systemic and will not be changed unless the civil and constitutional rights of the people they serve are its highest consideration, and the laws on the books that govern judges and court officials are honored and actually followed by all parties. The number of days (which should be actually years) and the avenue to appeal is only one issue of many that needs to be addressed. Twenty days is not enough for an appeal for someone whose children have been taken from them, nor should it be their only recourse. In addition, there needs to be an extended statute of limitations that allows those who have a record of being confirmed for child abuse by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services to appeal. It is a tragedy that there is no recourse at this time and otherwise innocent people are kept on a child abuse list forever with no chance for their names to be removed. This affects future employment, future child custody, and overall personal and professional reputation. It is admirable to protect children, of course, and real abusers should be rehabilitated and/or incarcerated. However, currently there is no process for anyone to remove their name, whether innocent or not. This is what also needs to be addressed regarding appeals.

2) Civil and Constitutional Violations

It is my understanding that, in the state of Hawai'i, child welfare cases are administrative adjudications, which allow for the constitutional rights of families to be violated in various ways, including allowing for child welfare officials to remove children without a warrant or court order, and often without facts: many times, it is just hearsay from an anonymous neighbor or disgruntled ex spouse or family member seeking to take custody for malicious or financial reasons. Other times, it is due to unqualified social workers making assumptions about families based on their own biases and lack of experience, such as can happen in the cases of disabled children. The average social worker does not have the expertise to determine whether a disabled child has been sexually assaulted, or merely being cared for in dressing and bathing activities that are normal for their family to do if a child is incapable of doing it themselves. To give so much power to even well-meaning social workers who are unqualified to deal with a disabled child's needs is dangerous, as they could easily misconstrue or misjudge the actions of caregivers and consequently violate the rights of the disabled child in the process by removing them from an otherwise stable home and responsible caregiver. Ignorance is dangerous in this situation, and more attention should be paid to the needs of disabled children.

These constitutional issues will not be heard by the Supreme Court of Appeals if the parent does not know to do so or does not have the financial or emotional resources to follow up with an appeal within twenty days. Court appointed attorneys paid by the state do not ever bring these cases forward to appeal, nor do they assist in expungement, in my observation. Who is there for a parent after their child is wrongfully removed by the state? How can they fight the state, if every attorney they call either wants \$10,000 or the deed to their home in order to do so, with the chance that they might lose because the state has a limitless amount of legal capital that they don't.

Arbitrarily putting or leaving names or damning information on a "list" violates the rights of parents and others, and I believe this list should be abolished altogether.

Therefore, a constitutional overhaul and forensic audit of the family court system is in order so as to stop the continued violations of the civil and constitutional rights of parents, children, and families.

3) Appeals Process / Criminal Court / Findings of Fact / Retaliation

A child's life goes on while their case winds slowly through the family court system. By the time a parent is able to even file an appeal, the child has been in state foster custody for months to years and may have been exposed to many other dangers outside the family home along the way. There are numerous cases where social workers got it wrong and children under their supervision were assaulted, traumatized, and even murdered in foster care. The more appropriate method, I believe, would be for the family court and Department of Human Services

employees to adhere to the constitution and the rules of the *criminal* court system, as child abuse is a criminal matter. If the police don't have a case or the prosecutor does not file charges, then child welfare services are not constitutionally allowed to remove the child until a police investigation either results in charges or doesn't. If there are charges, that would lead to removal, which is proper. If there are no charges, parents retain their 4th, 5th and 6th amendment rights and children should remain in the home with supportive services.

There also needs to be an avenue to have an attorney from the first CWS visit and interview. Otherwise, parents and children's rights will not be properly protected. To put yourself in their shoes, when would you want an attorney if the police were at your door? At the first hearing, or at the first interview? Do most parents or children realize their words will be used against them in a court of law? If their children are taken, they may say anything to get them back, for sure, and will admit to things or deny things without legal counsel present. This is not proper procedure and should never be allowed as a "finding of fact" by any judge and does not constitute a "fair and speedy trial" as guaranteed by the constitution. Miranda rights should be done at this stage to protect their rights to a *fair* trial. This is true for both parent and child.

Services for parents also take extremely long (weeks to months) and their lives and the lives of their children are precariously held in the hands of service providers, social workers, and others whom the court assigns to them. There would be no need for appeals if the family court and child welfare employees did their job properly and lawfully in the first place and were guided by the constitution, not their own administrative procedures and personal biases. I was told once by a DHS social worker that, when they look at cases, being Hawaiian was a "risk factor" which child welfare services uses against parents and children. Other "risk factors" they consider constitute intrinsic biases such as poverty and "lifestyle" choices. Some CWS risk factors are just plain bias and racism disguised as "threatened harm." In other words, a poor Hawaiian mother who is a survivor of domestic violence has three or four risk factors already, and children are at risk of removal from her home for "threatened harm" because social workers decided so. If that Hawaiian mother speaks out, she gets an unspoken ding against her that could cost her, as retaliation also runs rampant in child welfare cases, in my experience and observation. Child welfare workers can turn into abusers, too, and the registry is being used as a weapon by some unethical government employees. I am not against protecting children and holding real abusers accountable, I am against using the system to punish instead of strengthen struggling families.

4) HRS587 Amendments

The Child Protective Act (HRS587) needs to be amended with regards to the protection of families and children in numerous ways. Although on the surface it seems to favor the child, in reality, a child taken from their family home is still traumatic unless there is *factual* evidence of abuse as proven by a POLICE investigation. Police are also given too much discretion in the initial removals as authorized by HRS587, and this has led to more children removed from homes than necessary. There is a need for more qualified social workers and investigators who do not view parents as criminals whom they view as "guilty before proven innocent." It is backwards in the family court. Parents are guilty then have to prove their innocence. In this way and others, HRS587 gives too much power to the state, and strips all rights from parents prior to

a confirmation of abuse. This is alarming, as too many children are taken as a knee-jerk reaction to the actions of real abusers. After years of working in the system, it is apparent that state social workers and the deputy attorneys general of the counties often views parents in an adversarial way instead of struggling and in need of support. It is not more social workers needed, it is an overhaul in the way they operate that is needed. Deputy attorney generals representing the state seem to be more concerned with winning a case against a parent instead of resolving family issues, and they misuse and abuse the Child Protective Act to serve their purposes, not to truly protect children.

To summarize, HRS587 is unconstitutional and puts children and families at risk of further harm.

5) Audit of Family Court and Child Welfare Needed

The process of adjudication of child welfare cases within the Hawai'i family court system should be investigated and audited forensically, particularly in the areas of how indigent/vulnerable populations, the disabled, and Hawaiian children and families are treated and represented at the start of all family court cases. How do they initially enter the system? Is it a fair process? Would anyone like to be accused by anonymous witnesses and unqualified investigators? Is this even constitutional? Is there a monetary motivation for removing Hawaiian and indigent children? How come there are no wealthy families in the system whose children get taken? Why is it always the poor who are targeted for removal? How are disabled children served within the family court and child welfare systems? The issues and questions I raise in this testimony should serve as a starting point for this investigation, as it will indeed result in true change for Hawai'i's children and families who find themselves in the family court system. Not many, if any, of the most vulnerable populations are able to file appeals for expungements. Is this being addressed in SB2415? Why is the legislature putting the fox in charge of the hen house? Why isn't there an independent agency tasked with these appeals? Who will listen to parents without an attorney on their side? Are the poor and disabled in the state of Hawai'i on our own?

Piecemealing laws to fit into this system only confuses the issue and does not get to the heart of the matter: Hawai'i's child welfare and family courts are fatally flawed systems based on money, time, racism, intrinsic biases, and covering for the state's interests...not one solely based on child protection or family strengthening. It is actually quite adversarial and hostile to them and promotes division and repeated abuse and trauma by the system that is set up to help them. Therefore, the pursuit of "child protection" must transform into "family protection," for this is the foundation of all society: healthy, vibrant, thriving families of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, and economic levels. A child abuse registry is not the answer, it is a weapon.

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Mahalo for allowing me to humbly submit this testimony on behalf of myself and my 'ohana. It does not reflect the views of any of my public and private memberships or positions.

E malama makuahine a me na keiki a ka 'ohana a pau i ka pono 'i'o.

Take care of all the mothers, children and families in true righteousness.

SB-2415

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 9:59:39 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
maria Tijerina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I appreciate the intention of this bill, I don't think that you should pick and choose so precisely which citizens you believe are entitled to your standards of due process and who are not! I believe the best deterrent is a swift and effective justice system that is set up to protect the community in ways that does not cause future unacceptable emotional stress on the child victims. Maybe if this was in place Hawaii judges would not be sentencing people to probation for the starvation torture which lead to the death of a nine year old girl in Hilo last year! We need to go after known criminals first.

Please read this and realize the ramifications of this bill.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/05/hawaii-put-this-woman-on-a-child-neglect-list-and-now-she-cant-fight-it/>