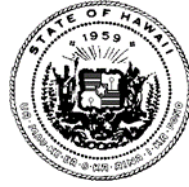


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



DEPT. COMM. NO. 191

CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

DR 22.046

December 15, 2022

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted in accordance with section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Related to the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts
Director

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Department of Budget & Finance
Legislative Auditor
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)
Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, 1 electronic copy)
Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2023

**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 2022**

I. Background

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994 (Act 232), established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account, now known as the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) 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 revenues to SCASF by adding a portion of the fees collected for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

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

In 2019, the administration proposed SB 1231, which became Act 84, SLH 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amended section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow an additional revenue source of Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to \$3,000,000. The administration proposed Act 84 to create a source of funds to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA) and address the expected 15 percent reduction of federal funds with the end of the Title IV-E waiver program on September 30, 2019.

FFPSA added a prevention focus to child welfare services and changed the Title IV-E financing model. Amongst other things, states can claim up to 50 percent reimbursement for certain approved evidence-based programs, and FFPSA also removed Title-IVE income limits. However, FFPSA remains a reimbursement model, so states must pay 100 percent of non-federal funds for services upfront to seek 50% federal reimbursement for approved activities. In SFY 2022, the Hawaii State Legislature increased the SCASF ceiling to \$5,000,000. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not correspondingly increase the appropriation ceiling to *access* money in the SCASF, resulting in DHS's inability to take advantage of the increased ceiling and thereby having the federal reimbursement return to the general fund. Through the biennial budget requests, the administration again asks to increase the SCASF ceiling to \$5,000,000 so that the budget and statutory ceiling will align.

Should the Legislature approve the request to raise the ceiling, the SCASF will receive federal reimbursements of up to \$5,000,000. These funds would then be available to fund the federally approved prevention services through FFPSA and provide CWS with

additional resources to strengthen families so more children can remain safely at home with their parents and relatives. Notably, per FFPSA, CWS would then be able to submit a claim for 50% federal reimbursement for eligible expenses.

FFPSA recognizes that families can often provide safe and loving care if they have the necessary support and services that address risk factors. FFPSA services would provide families, including pregnant and parenting youth in foster care, access to evidence-based parenting skills and supports, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch, administers SCASF and is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, accounting for the receipts and expenditures from the account.

II. SFY 2022 BUDGET

A. Balance on 7/1/21	\$122,828
B. SFY 2022 REVENUE	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$281,288
Miscellaneous	\$3,122
Fees for non-business licenses, permits, and marriage licenses	\$90,798
Subtotal Revenue	\$375,208
Total Revenue	\$498,036
C. SFY 2022 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBRANCES	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$9,165
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors - Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$79,404
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$15,000
4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel	\$2,901
5. CWS Specialized Workload Assessment Team	\$10,021
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$44,974
7. Intra-Familia Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	\$8,469
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	\$169,925
D. Carry-over to SFY 2023	\$328,111

III. SFY 2023 BUDGET

E. Balance on 7/1/22	\$328,111
F. SFY 2023 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue - all current sources	\$375,208
Total Projected Revenue	\$703,319
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2023	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$ 233,049
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$ 200,000
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$30,000
4. Hawaii State Citizen's Review Panel	\$20,000
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$30,000
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$45,000
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	\$110,270
Total Planned Expenditures	\$703,319
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/23	\$0

IV. SFY 2022 Outcomes

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 families; however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program receive services from multiple agencies to address their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, or substance use; others have children with behavioral challenges and physical or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma and also 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 return to their families safely.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2022, 44 children in foster care were able to reunify with their families safely. In addition, 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.

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

In SFY 2022, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 88 minor trafficking survivors, as well as numerous family members of the victims. Without these supportive services, trafficked individuals would likely suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

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

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), Hawaii hosts an annual conference that features national and local experts presenting on a wide range of Child Welfare Services (CWS). Relevant topics include 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. CWS' long-term commitment to bringing this conference to its staff and community stakeholders is essential to keep CWS staff and community partners at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice. The IVAT serves as a local venue, given Hawaii's location and costs to attend out-of-state events. Increasing staff knowledge and experiences enable them to better serve Hawaii's children and families.

In SFY 2022, 76 DHS staff attended the IVAT conference.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel

The federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires the CWS to convene the Citizen Review Panel (CRP). CWS funds the CRP, whose purpose 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. In addition, 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. CWS' support allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining the CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

In SFY 2022, the CRP focused on recruiting more panel members and CWS staff wellness. To promote the well-being of CWS staff in the workplace, CRP developed and distributed wellness packages for CWS staff statewide.

5. CWS Specialized Workload Assessment Team (SWAT)

The CWS SWAT comprises seasoned caseworkers and social services assistants deployed throughout the State to assist in regions struggling with workload to ease their burden and pave the way for more efficient and effective work. For example, Team members have helped by going into the field to assess families in new cases, so the local staff in the region could focus on completing paperwork and closing cases. Funds paid for the SWAT's travel expenses.

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

To fulfill its fiscal obligation to DAGS, in SFY 2022, DHS paid \$44,974 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment.

7. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu

Hawaii CWS contracts Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) to provide sex abuse treatment services to CWS families in need. On Oahu, CCH 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. In addition, offenders are held accountable for their actions. Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions.

In SFY 2022, this contracted service on Oahu served 243 individuals, including victims, siblings of victims, and parents (some perpetrators and some non-perpetrators).

SFY 2023 Planned Use of Funds

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

Please see the service description in Section IV.1. above.

In SFY 2023, CWS plans to continue these services with 75 more families, engaging in concerted and creative efforts, together with families, to reunify children in foster care with their families of origin.

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

Please see Section IV.2. above.

CWS plans to serve approximately 125 minor trafficking victims and their families through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2023.

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

Please see Section IV.3. above.

In SFY 2023, CWS plans to fund this annual conference, and approximately fifteen CWS staff statewide will attend.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel

Please see Section IV.4. above.

In SFY 2023, the CRP continues to recruit new members. The CRP is also working to refill the wellness baskets for CWS staff and exploring other ways that the group may be able to assist CWS with staff retention. Additionally, the panel is looking at how to support Family First Hawaii Prevention Services efforts.

5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)

The CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) brings together CWS 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 2023, MLT meetings focus on Family First Hawaii – Hawaii's prevention services under the federal Family First Prevention and Services Act. CWS is rolling out services to additional populations to prevent child abuse and neglect and prevent children from entering foster care. Most of these prevention services work with the families in their own homes, providing direct and tailored support to parents and caregivers.

The planned efforts and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will improve practice and services and ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

To remain current with its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay \$45,000 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment in SFY 2023.

7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review

CWS identifies approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare also experience domestic violence. In SFY 2023, CWS will collaborate with other State agencies and community providers to build awareness, ensure DV services are available, and 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, mainly 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 collaboration to ensure its continuation and to help families with needed services.

In SFY 2018, HISYNC proposed a legislative resolution 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. The resolution promotes 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, issued the first Request for Proposals (RFP) as a joint effort between DHS/CWS, DHS/OYS, DOH/ADAD, and DOH/CAMHD. The request was to procure a joint crisis home for youth with high needs who cannot be maintained in their homes yet do not meet the criteria for other placement settings. In SFY 2019, HISYNC awarded the contract for the joint crisis home for youth with high needs to Child and Family Services (CFS). This contract was the first of its kind in the State. In SFY 2020, among other projects, HISYNC focused energy on guiding, monitoring, and shaping the new contracted service.

In SFY 2021 and 2022, in addition to continuing to actively and collaboratively address issues of families with multi-system involvement, HISYNC worked on three projects: 1) increased HISYNC members' knowledge about each other's systems to improve service

coordination; 2) improved the organization and usability of the Hawaii Youth Interagency Performance Report (HYIPR) that HISYNC produces; and 3) explored crisis stabilization services, identifying needs and resources to prevent and address family crises.

In SFY 2023, HISYNC is collaborating across agencies on several cases involving youth with multiple challenges. HISYNC is creating a framework for addressing these types of cases with multi-agency involvement so that responsibility for the youth's health, safety, and well-being is shared and cooperatively supported.

9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu

Please see the service description in Section IV.6. above.

CWS plans to continue to fund this crucial and well-utilized service in SFY 2022, serving approximately another 250 people on Oahu in need of sex abuse treatment.