

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB - 7 2023

RE: S.B. No. 295
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 295 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to improve the State's child welfare system by:

- (1) Establishing within the Office of Wellness and Resilience, the Malama Ohana Working Group to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes to the State's existing child welfare system;
- (2) Authorizing the Office of Wellness and Resilience to contract with an administrative facilitator to provide necessary support for the Malama Ohana Working Group in carrying out its duties;
- (3) Requiring the Malama Ohana Working Group to report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2025, and be dissolved upon adjournment sine die thereof; and
- (4) Appropriating \$250,000 for the Malama Ohana Working Group, including funding for the Office of Wellness and Resilience to contract with an administrative



facilitator to provide necessary support for the working group in carrying out its duties.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!; Family Programs Hawaii; Epic 'Ohana, Inc.; Hale Kipa; Hawaii Family Advocacy Group; Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that there is a strong desire in the community to address the long-standing shortcomings of Hawaii's child welfare system that have been accentuated by the disappearance of six-year-old Isabella Kalua, also known as Ariel Sellers, at her home in Waimanalo and further exacerbated by the effects of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. Your Committee further finds that the problems faced by children and families in the State's child welfare system are extremely complex and cannot be resolved by the Department of Human Services alone. To address and resolve these diverse and multi-faceted problems, the State must work with the community and various stakeholders to determine where the core child welfare infrastructure is failing. This measure establishes a working group comprised of various members of the community and stakeholders to develop recommendations to establish a child welfare system that is trauma informed, sustains a community-based partnership, and is responsive to the needs of children and families in the system and the community.

Your Committee requests that your Committee on Ways and Means consider an appropriation amount of \$250,000 for the Malama Ohana Working Group established pursuant to this measure, including funding for the Office of Wellness and Resilience to contract with an administrative facilitator to provide necessary support for the working group in carrying out its duties.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting a blank appropriation amount;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and



- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 295, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 295, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 295</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HHS, LAM</i>	Date: <i>1/30/2023</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	<i>5</i>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:	Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy

*Only one measure per Record of Votes