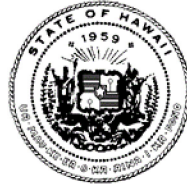


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



DEPT. COMM. NO. 327

RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

January 14, 2025

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

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

Per section 93-16, HRS, this report will be available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>. For questions regarding this report, contact Daisy Hartsfield, Division Administrator, Social Services Division, at dhartsfield@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Yamane".

Ryan I. Yamane
Director

Enclosure

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

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2025

**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
January 2025**

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I. Background

Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS). Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires DHS to submit an annual report to the Legislature prior to its convening.

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) 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 the DHS SCASA by adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

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

In the State's Thirtieth legislature, 2019, the administration proposed SB 1231, which became Act 84, SLH 2019, on June 7, 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amended section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) to receive Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year in which the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to \$3,000,000. The amendment was in preparation for the ending of Hawaii's Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019, where it was anticipated that the end of the waiver would result in a reduction of federal funds by an estimated 15 percent. By having the reimbursed federal money in the SCASA, that money could be accessed and used as a source to fund services that the SCASA was created for. Additionally, Act 84, SLH 2019, changed the name of the fund from

Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) to Spouse and Child Abuse Special *Fund* (SCASF), which it is now known as.

To further facilitate Title IV-E federal reimbursements as a source of funds for CWS's implementation of services per the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA), at the request of the administration, in the state fiscal year 2022, the Hawaii State Legislature increased the SCASF ceiling amount to \$5,000,000. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not correspondingly increase the appropriation ceiling in the executive budget to *access* the funds in SCASF. Without the budget ceiling increase, DHS was not able to take advantage of the increased ceiling and lapsed the federal reimbursement dollars to the general fund. Through the biennial executive budget request in the 2023 legislative session, the administration asked to increase the SCASF *access* ceiling to \$5,000,000, but the request was not granted. In the 2024 legislative session, access to the increased ceiling was finally granted. In SFY 2025, the total SCASF appropriation ceiling is \$6,124,053.

With the final change, DHS can deposit federal IV-E reimbursements into SCASF, and CWS may access these funds to fund prevention services under the FFPSA. FFPSA allows CWS to provide prevention services to strengthen families and prevent child abuse or neglect so more children can remain safely at home with their parents and relatives rather than entering foster care. FFPSA also allows for reimbursement of up to 50% of non-federal funds expended on approved evidence-based programs, and CWS has SCASF as its source of non-federal funds.

FFPSA recognizes that families can often provide safe and loving care if they have the support and services they need. Family First Hawaii, Hawaii's FFPSA program, will provide families, including expectant and parenting youth in foster care, with access to evidence-based services in the areas of parenting skills and supports, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

II. SFY 2024 BUDGET

A. Balance on 7/1/23	\$346,714
B. SFY 2024 REVENUE	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$282,129
Miscellaneous	\$3,622
Fees for non-business licenses, permits, and marriage licenses	\$83,525
Subtotal Revenue	\$369,276
Total Revenue	\$715,990
C. SFY 2024 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBRANCES	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$222,774
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors - Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$140,492
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$43,063
4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel	\$762
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$7,300
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$71,824
7. Intra-Familia Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	\$108,486
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	\$594,700
D. Carry-over to SFY 2025	\$121,290

III. SFY 2025 BUDGET

E. Balance on 7/1/24	\$121,290
F. SFY 2025 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue all current sources	\$369,276
Total Projected Revenue	\$490,566
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2025	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$146,679
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$173,660
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$19,132
4. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$12,755
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$19,132
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$28,453
7. Domestic Violence Training and Fatality Review	\$2,453
8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	\$19,132
9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	\$69,170
Total Planned Expenditures	\$490,566
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/25	\$0

IV. SFY 2024 Outcomes

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

Family Wrap Hawaii services are provided to families with children in foster care or who may be placed into foster care. The children may be able to be reunified (or remain) with their family; however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program are engaged with multiple agencies that help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and/or substance use; others have children with behavioral challenges and physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma and additionally have learning differences that are difficult to address. Family Wrap Hawaii services bring 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, the Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to safely return to their family.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2024, 22 children in foster care were able to reunify with their families safely, and 10 children who never entered foster care were able to remain safely in the family home. Families expressed feeling profoundly supported by 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

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), Public Law 113-183, 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 2024, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 17 minor trafficking survivors, as well as numerous family members of the victims. Without these supportive services, the 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 CWS-relevant topics, such as 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. The support of CWS to bring this conference to its staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii's CWS staff and community partners at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice, especially since Hawaii is geographically isolated and CWS staff and community providers cannot easily attend national conferences outside of Hawaii. Increasing staff's knowledge and experiences enables them to better serve Hawaii's children and families.

In SFY 2024, over 1,000 people attended the IVAT conference, and approximately 20 were CWS staff.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel

The Department financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP), which is required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The purpose of the CRP 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 SFY 2024, three CRP members traveled to the mainland to attend the national CRP conference in San Diego and then brought back ideas for actions to improve CRP work in Hawaii. Additionally, the panel supported Family First Hawaii's prevention efforts in creating and distributing public service announcements. In SFY 2024, the CRP also worked on creating wellness areas for CWS staff in each geographic region of the State.

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 2024, in MLT meetings, CWS addressed a range of topics and focused on Family First Hawaii (FFH) and the upcoming federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). CWS' FFH prevention services work to prevent child abuse and neglect and to prevent children from unnecessarily entering foster care. These prevention services work with the families in their own homes, providing direct and tailored support to parents and caregivers. The federal CFSR is an extensive federal audit that assesses thirty-six distinct areas of the child welfare system. It occurs for each state every six to seven years and includes a statewide self-assessment, approximately two dozen focus groups with varied stakeholders, formal qualitative case reviews, a final federal report, and the development and implementation of a statewide child welfare system program improvement plan. Hawaii is currently preparing its statewide self-

assessment report, consulting stakeholders, addressing data issues, and planning the case review process in preparation for the federal CFSR, which will officially begin in April 2025.

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

In SFY 2024, DHS paid \$71,824 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment.

7. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu

Hawaii CWS contracts with local community social service agencies to provide crucial sex abuse treatment services to CWS families in need. On Oahu, in SFY 2024, CWS contracted with Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). The contract serves minor victims of parental sexual abuse, siblings of the victims, non-perpetrating parents, and parental perpetrators of minor sexual abuse. These services include assessment, skill building, individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy, as clinically indicated. Offenders are held accountable for their actions. Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions.

In SFY 2024, this contracted service on Oahu served 146 individuals, including victims, siblings of victims, and parents (perpetrators and non-perpetrators).

V. SFY 2025 Planned Use of Funds

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

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

In SFY 2025, CWS will continue these crucial services and plan to serve approximately sixty families. Family Wrap Hawaii is engaging in concerted and creative efforts, together with families, to keep children safely in their family homes without entering foster care and to reunify children in foster care with their families of origin. Hawaii is also beginning to expand its use of Parent Partners (parents with lived experience in the child welfare system who support and assist parents new to CWS) to support more CWS cases.

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

Please see Section IV.2. above.

CWS plans to serve approximately twenty minor trafficking victims, along with their families, through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2025.

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

Please see Section IV.3. above.

In SFY 2025, funding will be provided again for this vital annual conference, enhancing the knowledge of professionals and community members regarding the impact of violence, the destructive dynamics of abuse, trauma responses, and treatment/service/resource options. Approximately twenty CWS staff statewide will attend.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel (\$20,000)

Please see Section IV.4. above.

In SFY 2025, the CRP will continue efforts to address staff wellness for each section so that staff can decompress during the day. HCRP is in the process of working on a survey to send out to the CWSB staff on strategies to support the current workforce. The data will be analyzed to help support the workforce. HCRP will ensure that information regarding staff wellness is considered to improve overall wellness in the workplace for CWSB.

5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)

Please see Section IV.5. above.

The money will be used to pay for travel expenses for neighbor island CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors to join the rest of the team on Oahu for live leadership meetings.

In SFY 2025, in MLT meetings, CWS will ensure statewide awareness of the CFSR process and full participation from all sections. At MLT meetings, CWS leadership statewide will provide input on the development and implementation of the State's CFSR Program Improvement Plan.

6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

To remain current with its fiscal special fund assessment, CWS plans to pay DAGS \$28,453 for the required Special Fund Assessment in SFY 2025.

7. Domestic Violence Training

Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are identified as being impacted by domestic violence (DV). In SFY 2025, CWS will collaborate with other State agencies and community providers to build DV awareness through training 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 resolution that was passed by the Legislature, 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. This official recognition promotes the continuation of the HISYNC committee beyond the existing membership, directing efforts of all entities toward better coordination and collaboration.

In SFY 2024, CWS continued to fund facilitation services to support HISYNC jointly. In SFY 2024, HISYNC continued to meet monthly to discuss new and ongoing areas of need and collaboration regarding children's and families' physical and psychological health and safety. These discussions included sharing updates from agencies on current and future activities and working with the Data to Wisdom system of care expansion grant. This grant was funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and awarded to Hawaii's Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division. The purpose of the grant is to meet the mental and behavioral health needs of children in Hawaii by reviewing

current mental/behavioral health services provided to children by different agencies and then creating opportunities for collaboration and enhancement of services.

In SFY 2025, efforts are continuing in the areas of focus mentioned above. Additionally, HISYNC is engaged in strategic planning to meet the goals and desired outcomes of HISYNC.

9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu

Please see the service description in Section IV.8. above.

CWS plans to continue to fund this crucial and well-utilized service in SFY 2025, serving approximately another 150 people on Oahu in need of sex abuse treatment.