

ACT 116

H.B. NO. 1119

A Bill for an Act Relating to Child Protective Services.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

PART I

SECTION 1. Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, is amended by amending section 4 to read as follows:

“SECTION 4. There is established a child protective services reform coordinating committee which shall be attached to the department of human services for administrative purposes only. It shall be the duty of the committee to make recommendations to the public agencies participating in the pilot project regarding its implementation, which shall include:

- (1) Development of requests for proposals from the community;
- (2) Site selection of two neighborhood places, and the development of requests for proposals from the community;
- (3) Identification of pilot project goals, including the identification of a schedule and evaluation process;

- (4) Development and implementation of systems-change training programs; and
- (5) Coordination of financial resources, excluding the use of state funds, that may be necessary to effectuate the pilot project.

The committee, with the consent of the director of human services, may seek grants, receive gifts, funds, or donations of services-in-kind to effectuate the purposes of this Act. The child protective services reform coordinating committee shall consist of [thirteen] at least fifteen members appointed by the [governor.] director of human services. The members shall include:

- (1) The director of human services, or a designated representative;
- (2) The director of health, or a designated representative;
- (3) The superintendent of education, or a designated representative;
- (4) The executive director of the office of youth services, or a designated representative;
- (5) One representative from the family court, who shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the chief justice of the supreme court;
- (6) One representative from the blueprint for change task force created by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89, H.D. 1, as adopted by the legislature during the 1994 regular session;
- (7) One representative from the Alliance for Health and Human Services;
- (8) One representative from a community service organization with experience with child protective or child welfare services;
- (9) [Three] Five representatives at-large; of which one person shall be employed at the department of human services child protective services unit; two persons shall be line staff of the child protective services unit, selected by the designated representative of the applicable collective bargaining unit; and one person shall be from each neighborhood place once the sites have been selected;
- (10) One member of the house of representatives, who shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house; and
- (11) One member of the senate, who shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the president of the senate.

The [governor shall appoint the] director of human services [as] shall be the chairperson of the committee. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation and shall be exempt from the requirements of section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The committee may adopt [rules] procedures necessary for the purposes of this Act[; provided that such rules shall be exempt from the public notice and public hearing requirements of chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes].”

SECTION 2. Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, is amended as follows:

1. By adding a new section to read:

“SECTION 6. Notwithstanding sections 346-10 and 350-1.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the department of human services may share information with the neighborhood places; provided that the shared information shall remain confidential in accordance with section 350-1.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.”

2. By amending section 6 to read:

“SECTION [6.] 7. The child protective services reform coordinating committee shall[:

- (1) Submit progress reports regarding the pilot project to the legislature on a semi-annual basis; provided that copies of the report shall be made available to interested community groups; and
- (2) Submit a) submit an annual progress report regarding the pilot project including legislative recommendations no later than twenty days prior

to the convening of the [1997, 1998, and 1999] 2000, 2001, and 2002 regular sessions[.]; provided that copies of the reports shall be made available to interested community groups.”

3. By amending section 7 to read as follows:

“SECTION [7.] 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1996, and shall be repealed on June 30, [1999.] 2002.”

PART II

SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the department of human services requires additional resources to improve the delivery of child welfare services. Certain child protective services units have experienced high vacancies or extended employees' leaves of absence, and resources are needed to supplement existing staff resources to meet workload requirements. In particular, child welfare social workers need assistance in performing essential but non-emergency tasks, which include:

- (1) Returning routine calls on behalf of social workers;
- (2) Assisting with securing Med-QUEST applications and other information for foster parents;
- (3) Transporting children for appointments or visits;
- (4) Delivering documents to the courts and other agencies or providers; and
- (5) Filing documents in case files.

SECTION 4. There is established in the department of human services the child welfare services demonstration project to assist and support social workers to improve the delivery of child welfare services. The department of human services may hire employees for this demonstration project without regard to chapters 76, 77, and 78, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The demonstration project shall be supervised by child welfare services staff, who shall be responsible for assignments and supervision of the demonstration project employees and coordination with the other units. The child welfare services demonstration project shall cease to exist on June 28, 2001.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 1999.

(Approved June 25, 1999.)