

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Children's Justice Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 588-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) The ~~[purpose]~~ purposes of the program shall be to:

- (1) Develop, achieve, and maintain interagency and interprofessional cooperation and coordination in the investigation of and ~~[ease]~~ management of ~~[intrafamilial and extrafamilial]~~ cases involving suspected or confirmed:
 - (A) Victims of child sex abuse [and], serious physical child abuse [eases;], child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other child maltreatment; and
 - (B) Child witnesses to crime or violence;
- (2) Facilitate in an impartial manner the professional gathering of information by public and private agencies and their providers for court proceedings involving child victims and witnesses;
- (3) Reduce to the absolute minimum the number of interviews of child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims and witnesses so as to minimize revictimization of the child;
- (4) Coordinate the therapeutic and treatment program for child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims and witnesses and their families;
- (5) Provide for a multidisciplinary team and case management approach ~~[which is focused first, on the alleged or suspected child sex abuse victim's needs and conditions;]~~ that focuses on the needs of, first, the child victim or witness; second, [on the] family members who are supportive of the child and whose interests are consistent with the best interests of the child; and third, [on] law enforcement and [prosecutorial needs;] prosecuting agencies;
- (6) Provide for the training and continuing education of skilled professional interviewers of child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims[;] and witnesses; and
- (7) Serve as the focus of information and referral for child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victim and witness programs.”

SECTION 2. Section 588-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§588-4 Duties of the director.** The director shall:

- (1) Enter into agreements with police departments, departments of the prosecuting attorneys and county corporation counsels, the departments of the attorney general, health, and human services, and other public and private agencies, including agreements for the temporary assignment of appropriate personnel from each agency to the program;
- (2) Enter into contracts for the provision of specialized training and continuing education for interviewers of child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims and ~~[child]~~ witnesses from both public and private agencies and providers;
- (3) Arrange for interviews of child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims and ~~[child]~~ witnesses in an appropriate setting;
- (4) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, including information sharing and gathering, among the public and private

agencies and their providers that deliver investigative, case management, and therapeutic services;

- (5) Coordinate the flow of information between the agencies responsible for criminal prosecution and the agencies responsible for protective action in civil proceedings, including those professionals providing services to children and their families;
- (6) Arrange for the exchange of information, to include statistical data from public and private agencies involved in child ~~[sex abuse]~~ victims' and witnesses' programs and issues;
- (7) Develop recommendations and plans for action to assist the public and private agencies involved in cases of child ~~[sex abuse and serious physical child abuse;]~~ victims and witnesses; and
- (8) Prepare and maintain records and reports for the program.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 27, 2022.)

Note

1. So in original.