

ACT 317

H.B. NO. 1932

A Bill for an Act Relating to Child Welfare Services.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that having modern software that child welfare caseworkers can access on their mobile phones during case visits and field work will allow workers to more effectively manage their caseloads to meet the growing number of children in foster care, ensure that Hawaii can meet the national standard for monthly visits, improve case planning, and strengthen

child and family involvement to improve mental and behavioral health outcomes for youth and the health needs for children.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Require the child welfare services branch of the department of human services to develop a modern case management software solution that is compatible with existing child welfare technology;
- (2) Submit progress reports to the legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

SECTION 2. (a) The child welfare services branch of the department of human services shall develop a modern case management software solution that is compatible with existing child welfare technology.

(b) The department shall contract with a qualified child welfare software provider to develop the case management software solution, which shall include the following features:

- (1) A method for case workers to:
 - (A) More effectively track the children in their caseload management;
 - (B) Create and manage case plans; and
 - (C) Manage ongoing visits in the home and in coordination with siblings and families of origin;
- (2) A family portal for resource caregiver families to easily document information related to the care of children in their homes, including information related to the documentation of medical and dental visits;
- (3) Online access for families to information related to the care of children placed in their care, including allergy, education, and health information; and
- (4) A portal for minors over the age of twelve in care to access resources online about available support services.

(c) The child welfare services branch shall submit reports to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023 and 2024, including a status update on the development of the child welfare services case management software solution, findings and recommendations, and any proposed legislation.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$80,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the development of a case management software solution by the child welfare services branch of the department of human services pursuant to this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(Became law on July 12, 2022, without the Governor's signature, pursuant to Art. III, §16, State Constitution.)