SB 112

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To:

Senate Committee on Human Services

From:

Paul T. Tsukiyama, Director

Date:

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 1:15 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re:

Testimony on S.B. No. 112

Relating to the Children's Justice Program

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 112.

The Office of Information Practices ("OIP") takes no position on the purpose of this bill but recommends an amendment to the bill for purposes of clarification. Specifically, this bill requires confidentiality for the files used in providing services in the Children's Justice Program. It is OIP's understanding that this bill provides confidentiality in order to protect the privacy of the individuals in the Program and, therefore, believes confidentiality for individual treatment records, reports, and files is appropriate. However, the bill, as currently worded, is overbroad because it requires confidentiality for all the types of records covered, including records that do not reveal any information identifying the individuals in the Program. OIP recommends that the bill be amended to provide that information identifying individuals shall be confidential. This will allow the Program to provide information about their services to the public so long as no information about individuals are disclosed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.