



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

January 30, 2012

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2140 - RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE**

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2012; 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed bill is to establish a preference for allowing a child who has been or is at risk of being abused to remain in the home, and requiring the perpetrator of the abuse to leave the home.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services strongly supports the intent of this proposal as it may help to ensure continuity and consistency for a child who might otherwise need out-of-home placement. This bill offers an alternative to a child's placement in out-of-home care that may be viable in some cases.

The Department would like to refer this Committee to the time-tested procedures contained in section 709-906, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding the removal of an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence from his or her premises. This provision provides clear standards and procedures to effectuate removal where there are reasonable grounds to believe that harm has occurred.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.