
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
BRANCH OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Child Welfare Services Branch
2 of the Social Services Division of the Department of Human
3 Services is to provide services to ensure the safety and
4 permanency of children in their own homes or, when necessary, in
5 out-of-home placements; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch attempts to
8 empower families and build upon family strengths, but when
9 children cannot be safely returned to the family, the Branch
10 proceeds with permanent placement through adoption, legal
11 guardianship, or other substitute long-term care, including
12 independent living; and
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14 WHEREAS, the last audits of the Child Welfare Services
15 Branch of the Social Services Division of the Department of
16 Human Services were conducted in 1999, with a follow-up audit in
17 2003; and
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19 WHEREAS, the 1999 audit criticized the Department's
20 communication and decision-making processes that may affect the
21 safety and well-being of the children, specifically singling out
22 limited communication within the Department that does not ensure
23 that the risk of harm to a child will be considered during key
24 decision-making; and
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26 WHEREAS, the 2003 follow-up audit found that many of the
27 deficiencies revealed in the 1999 audit had continued, and that
28 the crux of the problems stemmed from a lack or disregard of
29 department management controls; and
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31 WHEREAS, specifically, the 2003 audit found that
32 supervisory oversight and review, which is a critical Department
33 control, was inadequate and resulted in inconsistent enforcement
34 of intake and investigation procedures, poor communication with



1 the Family Court and the City and County of Honolulu Police
2 Department, and untimely permanency planning; and
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4 WHEREAS, in addition, the 2003 audit found that the
5 Department did not always use or properly review its risk
6 assessment matrices, which are tools that promote systematic and
7 consistent decision-making; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch of the Social
10 Services Division of the Department of Human Services is overdue
11 for another follow-up audit; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
15 Session of 2014, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a
16 management audit of the Child Welfare Services Branch of the
17 Social Services Division of the Department of Human Services;
18 and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
21 the management audit focus on cases of missing children,
22 including incidences and the implementation of measures to
23 prevent or resolve incidents; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
26 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any
27 proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty
28 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the Director of
32 Human Services.
33

34 Colvin K. by
35 Brend Kiyori
Kawakawana
OK

OFFERED BY:

Melo Carroll
[Signature]
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Richard Cruz

