



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 11, 2016

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: HB 2505, Relating to Child Abuse

Hearing: Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill as teachers and students need to know and recognize child abuse and neglect in order to protect children or children to protect themselves, and obtain the help they need. The DHS offers the following comments: it is not necessary to legislate the DHS to develop signage publicizing the Child Welfare Services hotline number, as the current collaboration between the DHS and the DOE, along with access to the internet provide adequate access for DOE staff and students to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to increase access and visibility of the Child Welfare Services (CWS) hotline number within the DOE schools and charter schools.

The Department of Human Services collaborates closely with the DOE to provide in-service training to its staff regarding the Child Protective Act and the mandated reporter responsibilities. We will continue to work with the DOE to ensure that the CWS hotline number is visible and accessible in the DOE and charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/11/2016
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2505 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires Department of Education schools and charter schools to post informational signs that include the Department of Human Services phone number for reporting abuse and neglect.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 2505. However, we respectfully submit the placement of informational signs should not be mandated through legislation.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to meet with the Department of Human Services on this matter to work on a viable solution that does not place an undue operational nor cost burden on schools or the Department.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016
Time: 9:30 AM
Place: Conference Room 329

To: House Committee on Human Services
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Re: **Support of HB2505, Relating to Child Abuse**

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and the Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

My name is Jandee Ferguson and I am currently obtaining a Master's in Social Work through the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am also employed as a Social Worker with the Hawaii State Judiciary. Through my professional role, I serve as a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) for abused and neglected children involved with Child Welfare Services.

I am submitting independent testimony in strong support of HB2505, which seeks to require Department of Education schools and charter schools to post informational signs that include the Department of Human Services phone number for reporting abuse and neglect.

I am supporting HB2505 for the following reasons:

- Child abuse and neglect all too often go unreported and children are left to suffer the consequences of maltreatment. Posting informational signs that include the child abuse and neglect hotline number can increase reporting, provide access to early intervention and reduce the level of abuse and/or neglect related trauma these children experience.
- Strategically displaying informational signs in high traffic locations can encourage students who are victims of abuse and neglect to reach out and seek help.
- Increasing visibility of the DHS hotline number on school campuses can serve as a reminder for teachers and school staff of their responsibility as mandated reporters to document and report any suspicion of child maltreatment.
- Protecting children from abuse and neglect should be a community effort. Therefore, providing equal access to community resources and relevant information in this regard is extremely critical.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Jandee Ferguson (*House District 8*)
Email: jandee@hawaii.edu

Kecia Y Sakugawa

42 Kapiki Place

Kula, HI 96790

Aloha,

My name is Kecia Sakugawa and I am writing this testimony in support of HB 2505. I currently work for the State of Hawaii, Judiciary and part of my job is to be a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) representing children in the court system.

I am in support of HB 2505 as there are many times where child abuse and neglect often go unreported. While this not only happens because people are afraid to report incidents for numerous reasons, a lot of incidents go in reported because people do not know who to contact. By having the numbers of those who people should contact in case of child abuse and neglect will help tremendously. In previous nationwide studies it is said that as many as 9 out of 10 child abuse cases go in reported. That is 90%. This number is astonishing especially as the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services/ Child Welfare Services are swamped with cases. Can you even imagine if 10 out of 10 cases were reported. I believe that this will hold us as citizens accountable and help take steps in the right direction to end child abuse and neglect on step at a time. It is very crucial that incidents are reported, because if they aren't then those involved do not receive the help that they need.

Mahalo for taking the time to read and listen to all the testimony submitted, I am forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Kecia Sakugawa

Le'a Moses
leam@hawaii.edu

LATE

February 10, 2016

To: Representative Morikawa
Representative Belatti
Representative Ing
Representative Mizuno
Representative Oshiro
Representative Rhoads
Committee of Human Services
Committee of Education
Committee of Finance

From: Le'a Moses, BSW

RE: HB 2505, Relating to Child Abuse, Support

Representative Morikawa, Belatti, Ing, Mizuno, Oshiro, Rhoads and committee members: I am testifying in support of HB 2505, Relating to Child Abuse. My name is Le'a Moses and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i in the School of Social Work. I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Children are a vulnerable population that needs advocates and support. By increasing the access to the appropriate information regarding abuse or neglect could provide this vulnerable population a voice.
- As a Social Work student I have had the privileged to participate in Practicum in the Child Welfare arena. I have found that many parents, teachers, and other members of the community are not aware of the appropriate ways to report child abuse. Many do not know that there is a hotline that can be accessed. Increasing visibility and access of information could increase the number of reports made.

I strongly support this bill because as stated previously through my Practicum experience I have come across many individuals that were not aware of the information needed to report concerns of abuse or neglect. This lack of knowledge of the appropriate ways to report child abuse and neglect could lead to negative consequences for children and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.