
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Section 588-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The ~~[purpose]~~ purposes of the program shall be to:

(1) Develop, achieve, and maintain interagency and interprofessional cooperation and coordination in the investigation of and ~~[ease]~~ management of ~~[intrafamilial and extrafamilial]~~ cases involving suspected or confirmed:

(A) Victims of child sex abuse [and], serious physical child abuse [eases+], child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other child maltreatment; and

(B) Child witnesses to crime or violence;

(2) Facilitate in an impartial manner the professional gathering of information by public and private agencies and their providers for court proceedings involving child victims and witnesses;



- 1 (3) Reduce to the absolute minimum the number of
2 interviews of child [~~sex-abuse~~] victims and witnesses
3 so as to minimize revictimization of the child;
- 4 (4) Coordinate the therapeutic and treatment program for
5 child [~~sex-abuse~~] victims and witnesses and their
6 families;
- 7 (5) Provide for a multidisciplinary team and case
8 management approach [~~which is focused first, on the~~
9 ~~alleged or suspected child sex abuse victim's needs~~
10 ~~and conditions,~~] that focuses on the needs of, first,
11 the child victim or witness; second, [~~on the~~] family
12 members who are supportive of the child and whose
13 interests are consistent with the best interests of
14 the child; and third, [~~on~~] law enforcement and
15 [~~prosecutorial needs,~~] prosecuting agencies;
- 16 (6) Provide for the training and continuing education of
17 skilled professional interviewers of child [~~sex-abuse~~]
18 victims[+] and witnesses; and
- 19 (7) Serve as the focus of information and referral for
20 child [~~sex-abuse~~] victim and witness programs."



SECTION 2. Section 588-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§588-4 Duties of the director. The director shall:

- (1) Enter into agreements with police departments, departments of the prosecuting attorneys and county corporation counsels, the departments of the attorney general, health, and human services, and other public and private agencies, including agreements for the temporary assignment of appropriate personnel from each agency to the program;
- (2) Enter into contracts for the provision of specialized training and continuing education for interviewers of child [~~sex-abuse~~] victims and [~~child~~] witnesses from both public and private agencies and providers;
- (3) Arrange for interviews of child [~~sex-abuse~~] victims and [~~child~~] witnesses in an appropriate setting;
- (4) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, including information sharing and gathering, among the public and private agencies and their providers that deliver investigative, case management, and therapeutic services;



- 1 (5) Coordinate the flow of information between the
2 agencies responsible for criminal prosecution and the
3 agencies responsible for protective action in civil
4 proceedings, including those professionals providing
5 services to children and their families;
- 6 (6) Arrange for the exchange of information, to include
7 statistical data from public and private agencies
8 involved in child [~~sex abuse~~] victims' and witnesses'
9 programs and issues;
- 10 (7) Develop recommendations and plans for action to assist
11 the public and private agencies involved in cases of
12 child [~~sex abuse and serious physical child abuse,~~]
13 victims and witnesses; and
- 14 (8) Prepare and maintain records and reports for the
15 program."

16 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
19

INTRODUCED BY: _____



By Request

JAN 19 2022



H.B. NO. 1537

Report Title:

Judiciary Package; Children's Justice Program; Purposes

Description:

Updates the purpose of the children's justice program to include investigation and management of cases involving suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence. Makes conforming amendments.

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