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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE  
AUDIT OF THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch of the  
2 Department of Human Services has a responsibility to protect the  
3 well-being of the children of Hawaii, including children who are  
4 wards of the State and children who have allegedly been  
5 neglected or abused; and  
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7           WHEREAS, in November 2021, two individuals who were  
8 resource givers with the Child Welfare Services Branch, as well  
9 as adoptive parents, were arrested and charged with child abuse  
10 and the murder of their six-year-old adopted daughter in  
11 Waimanalo, Oahu; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch failed to pass  
14 the United States Department of Health and Human Services'  
15 Administration for Children and Families' periodic Child and  
16 Family Services Review to assess state performance in meeting  
17 certain safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children  
18 involved in the child welfare system during the last three  
19 reviews conducted, which were in 2003, 2009, and 2017; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch experiences  
22 difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, and at the start  
23 of 2022 had eighty-seven vacant positions (a twenty-two-percent  
24 vacancy rate), forty-four of which were for social workers; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the Office of the Auditor may be able to assist  
27 the Child Welfare Services Branch in evaluating improvements  
28 made since the 2017 federal review and in improving the  
29 recruitment and retention of staff; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of the  
4 Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of the Child  
5 Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Human Services; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the performance audit is  
8 requested to include:  
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10 (1) The policies, procedures, and processes of the Child  
11 Welfare Services Branch to protect the safety and  
12 well-being of children in their own homes and in out-  
13 of-home placements, including foster care,  
14 guardianship, and adoption; and  
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16 (2) The recruitment and retention of social workers and  
17 other staff at the Child Welfare Services Branch; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is  
20 requested to submit its performance audit, including any  
21 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the  
22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
23 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of  
27 Human Services, and Administrator of the Child Welfare Services  
28 Branch of the Department of Human Services.  
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