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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR TO UPDATE ITS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH ASSESSMENT STANDARD PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 165, REGULAR SESSION OF HAWAII 2010.

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 improved its  
14 outcomes after failing to pass the United States Department of  
15 Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and  
16 Families' periodic Child and Family Services Review to assess  
17 state performance in meeting certain safety, permanency, and  
18 well-being outcomes for children involved in the child welfare  
19 system during the last three reviews conducted, which were in  
20 2003, 2009, and 2017; and

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22           WHEREAS, the Child Welfare Services Branch is experiencing  
23 difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, and at the start  
24 of 2022 had eighty-seven vacant positions (a twenty-two-percent  
25 vacancy rate), forty-four of which were for social workers; and

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27           WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 165, Regular  
28 Session of Hawaii 2010, sought to request from the Auditor a  
29 program audit on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Child  
30 Welfare Services Branch in processing and investigating



1 complaints but the Auditor by letter dated May 6, 2013, failed  
2 to conduct such audit as being problematic and duplicative of  
3 federal review by the National Resource Center for Child  
4 Protective Services, which conducts on-site visits; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the Auditor's letter failed to be updated after  
7 the 2010 federal requirement for the Child Welfare Services  
8 Branch to implement a second Program Improvement Plan to avert a  
9 penalty; nor did it conduct an assessment on the triage  
10 procedure required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and  
11 Treatment Act that was reauthorized by the Keeping Children and  
12 Families Safe Act of 2003; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, the Office of the Auditor may be able to assist  
15 the Child Welfare Services Branch in evaluating improvements  
16 made since the 2017 federal review and in improving the  
17 recruitment and retention of staff; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of the  
22 Auditor is requested to update its Child Welfare Services Branch  
23 assessment standard pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution  
24 No. 165, Regular Session of Hawaii 2010, to include the second  
25 Program Improvement Plan required by the United States  
26 Department of Health and Human Services in 2010; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the performance audit is  
29 requested to include the triage procedure required by the  
30 federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act that was  
31 reauthorized by the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of  
32 2003; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is  
35 requested to submit its performance audit, including any  
36 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the  
37 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
38 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of



- 1 Human Services, and Administrator of the Child Welfare Services
- 2 Branch of the Department of Human Services.

