

MAR 11 2022

SENATE 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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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,



1 that the Office of the Auditor is requested to conduct a
2 performance audit of the Child Welfare Services Branch of the
3 Department of Human Services; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the performance audit is
6 requested to include:
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8 (1) The policies, procedures, and processes of the Child
9 Welfare Services Branch to protect the safety and
10 well-being of children in their own homes and in out-
11 of-home placements, including foster care,
12 guardianship, and adoption; and
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14 (2) The recruitment and retention of social workers and
15 other staff at the Child Welfare Services Branch; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is
18 requested to submit its performance audit, including any
19 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the
20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of Human
25 Services, and Administrator of the Child Welfare Services Branch
26 of the Department of Human Services.
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OFFERED BY: _____

