

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PROGRAM AUDIT OF THE STATE'S
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, ensuring the wellbeing, safety, and stability of
2 Hawaii's children and families is a top priority for the State;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, numerous state and county agencies are involved in
6 the State's child protective services system, including the
7 Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney
8 General, Judiciary, and county police departments; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services' most recent
11 report on child abuse and neglect, published in 2021, found that
12 more than ten thousand cases of child abuse were reported in the
13 State between 2017 and 2021; and
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15 WHEREAS, recent high-profile cases of child abuse and child
16 murder in Hawaii have suggested that the victims were failed by
17 the State's child protective services system; and
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19 WHEREAS, a comprehensive assessment is needed to determine
20 how the State's child protective services system can be
21 improved; and
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23 WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 10 of the Hawaii State
24 Constitution and section 23-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, task the
25 Auditor with carrying out program and performance audits of
26 government agencies; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Auditor has carried out previous performance
29 audits and follow-up audits of the State's child protective
30 services and child welfare services systems; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
2 requested to conduct a program audit of the State's child
3 protective services system, including child protection roles in
4 the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Human
5 Services, family courts, and county police departments; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of the audit, the
8 Auditor is requested to consult with the National Conference of
9 State Legislatures Child Protection Reform Project, National
10 Resource Center of Child Maltreatment, or other national
11 entities with child welfare expertise; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested
14 to consult with parents, foster parents, healthcare providers,
15 educators, and other stakeholders; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit is requested to
18 address:

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- 20 (1) Whether effective communication exists among the
21 various agencies involved in child protective
22 services;
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 - 24 (2) Whether agency staff receive adequate training on
25 identifying child abuse and neglect;
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 - 27 (3) Whether each agency has a manageable caseload;
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 - 29 (4) The adequacy of each agency's child protection
30 resources; and
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 - 32 (5) The effectiveness and efficiency of decision-making
33 processes in the child protective services system,
34 including decisions related to:
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 - 36 (A) Screening;
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 - 38 (B) Case selection;
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 - 40 (C) Child safety, including methods to keep a
41 maltreated child safe and the conditions under



1 which the child should be placed outside the
2 home;

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4 (D) Reunification of the child and family; and

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6 (E) The termination of child protective services
7 involvement; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit is requested to
10 include a review of recent cases of recurring child abuse and
11 neglect; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
14 provide specific recommendations to guide any necessary reforms
15 to the State's child protective services system; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
18 submit all findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
19 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
20 Session of 2025; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Attorney
24 General, Director of Human Services, Administrative Directors of
25 the First through Fifth Circuit Courts, and Chief of each county
26 police department.

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29 OFFERED BY: Kurt Feller

