

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2025

RE: S.B. No. 952
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 952 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Office of Wellness and Resilience to design, implement, and administer a two-year Child Welfare System Diversion and Intervention Pilot Program to support families and children involved, at risk of involvement, or at risk of reinvolvement with Child Welfare Services;
- (2) Allow the Office to contract with public and private entities to provide necessary services; and
- (3) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Wellness and Resilience, Mālama 'Ohana Working Group, Opportunity for Youth Action Hawai'i, Hawai'i Youth Services Network, and two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.



Your Committee finds that more initiatives must be established to address the unmet needs of children and families in the State's child welfare system. To this end, the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group was established within the Office of Wellness and Resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes to the State's existing child welfare system. The establishment of the Child Welfare System Diversion and Intervention Pilot Program in this measure is based on the Working Group's recommendation for preventative programs and comprehensive services to reduce the risk of families entering the child welfare system. The Pilot Program, through its wide variety of support and assistance mechanisms for families involved or at-risk of involvement with the State's child welfare system, will strengthen the existing child welfare system and ensure the health, safety, and well-being of families in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Extending the duration of the Child Welfare System Diversion and Intervention Pilot Program from two years to five years;
- (2) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (4) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 952, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 952, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 952	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 2/12/25
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**