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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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January 23, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the report submitted in accordance with section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund.

Per section 93-16, HRS, this report will be available to review electronically at the Department's website, at https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/. For questions regarding this report, contact Elladine Olevao, Acting Administrator, Social Services Division, at eolevao@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan I. Yamane
Director

Enclosure
c: Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Department of Budget and Finance
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REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2026

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
January 2026

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Background

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Act 232 specified "the proceeds of the account shall be reserved for use by the department of human services for staff programs and grants or purchases of service . . . that support or provide spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention as authorized by law." The funds originally came from fees for marriage licenses.

Act 216 of the Nineteenth Legislature, 1997, increased the DHS Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

Act 177 of the Twenty-First Legislature, 2002, increased the DHS Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by raising the funding ceiling from $300,000 to $450,000 to allow DHS to fund additional program needs. The ceiling was further raised to $610,000 per Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008.

In the State's Thirtieth Legislature, 2019, the administration proposed SB 1231 that became Act 84, SLH 2019 on June 7, 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amended section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund to receive Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year in which the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to $3,000,000. The amendment was in preparation for the ending of Hawaii's Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019, where it was anticipated that the end of the waiver would result in a reduction of federal funds by an estimated 15 percent. By having the reimbursed federal money in the SCASA, that money could be accessed and used as a source to fund services that the SCASA was created for. Additionally, Act 84, SLH 2019, changed the name of the fund from Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) to Spouse and Child Abuse Special *Fund* (SCASF), which it is now known as.

To facilitate federal reimbursement money coming to the State for Child Welfare Services' enactment of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, at the request of the administration, in SFY 2022, the Hawaii State Legislature increased the ceiling amount that can be held in the SCASF to $5,000,000. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not correspondingly increase the appropriation ceiling to *access* money in the SCASF, resulting in DHS inability to take advantage of the increased ceiling and thereby having to forfeit federal reimbursement dollars. Through the biennial executive budget request in the 2023 legislative session, the administration asked to increase the SCASF *access* ceiling to $5,000,000, but the request was not granted. In the 2024 legislative session, access to the increased ceiling was granted. In SFY 2025 the total SCASF appropriation ceiling is $6,124,053.

Now that the Legislature has approved the request to raise the ceiling, SCASF will be able to hold CWS federal reimbursements. This federal reimbursement money shall then be accessed to fund prevention services under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which provides CWS the opportunity to strengthen families so more children can remain safely at home with their parents and relatives, rather than entering foster care.

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) recognizes that families can often provide safe and loving care if they have the support and services they need. The funding would provide families, including expectant and parenting youth in foster care, access to evidence-based services in the areas of parenting skills and supports, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

SCASF is administered by DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB). DHS is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, providing an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the account. This is that report.

I. SFY 2025 BUDGET

A. Balance on 7/1/24	$121,290
B. SFY 2025 REVENUE	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	$286,757
Miscellaneous	$24,561
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	$80,514
Subtotal Revenue	$391,832
Total Revenue	$513,122
C. SFY 2025 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBRANCES	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	$135,949
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors - Susannah Wesley Community Center	$141,043
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma Training Statewide	$40,899
4. CWS Management Leadership Team	$4,879
5. Intra-Familia Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	$59,834
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	$382,603
D. Carry-over to SFY 2026	$130,519

II. SFY 2026 BUDGET

E. Balance on 7/1/25	$130,519
F. SFY 2026 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue all current sources	$391,832
Total Projected Revenue	$522,351
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2026	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	$233,049
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	$275,599
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	$30,000
4. Hawaii State Citizen's Review Panel	$20,000
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	$30,000
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	$45,000
7. Domestic Violence Training and Fatality Review	$5,000
8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	$30,000
9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	$110,270
Total Planned Expenditures	$778,918
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/26	$0

III. SFY 2025 Outcomes

1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Family Wrap Hawaii services are provided to families with children in foster care or who may be placed into foster care. The children may be able to be reunified (or remain) with their family, however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program are engaged with multiple agencies which help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and/or substance use; others have children with behavioral challenges and physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma, and additionally have learning differences that are difficult to address. Family Wrap Hawaii services brings agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. It coordinates services with the providers and the family to develop creative ways to remove the barriers to reunification. CWS partners with DOE, DOH, Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to safely return to their family.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2025, 7 children in foster care were able to safely reunify with their families and 19 children never entered foster care and were able to remain safely in the family home. Families expressed feeling profoundly supported by the Family Wrap Hawaii Services, and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received.

2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center

Federal Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), requires CWS in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompanied the Act. CWS offers counseling, advocacy, and support to trafficked children throughout the State by trained and experienced individuals working with this specialized population.

In SFY 2025, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 16 minor trafficking survivors, as well as numerous family members of the victims. Without these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), Hawaii hosts an annual conference which features national and local experts presenting a wide range of CWS-relevant topics, such as teen dating violence, commercial sexual

exploitation of minors, evidence-based practices in child welfare, culturally-informed service-delivery, and the use of psychotropic medication with youth in foster care. The support of CWS to bring this conference to its staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii's CWS staff and community partners at the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice, especially since Hawaii is geographically isolated and CWS staff and community providers cannot easily attend national conferences outside of Hawaii. Increasing staff knowledge and experience enables them to better serve Hawaii's children and families.

In SFY 2025, over 1,000 people attended the IVAT conference, and approximately 25 were CWS staff.

4. **CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)**

The CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) brings together CWS Administrators and Supervisors statewide once a quarter. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans to enhance services to CWS children and families; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, reviews statewide and local data, and examines the implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

In SFY 2025, in MLT meetings, CWS addressed a range of topics and focused on Family First Hawaii (FFH), and the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). CWS' FFH prevention services work to prevent child abuse and neglect and to prevent children from unnecessarily entering foster care. These prevention services work with the families in their own homes, providing direct and tailored support to parents and caregivers. The federal CFSR is an extensive federal audit, which assesses thirty-six distinct areas of the child welfare system. It occurs for each state every six to seven years and includes a statewide self-assessment, approximately two-dozen focus groups with varied stakeholders, formal qualitative case reviews, a final federal report, and the development and implementation of a statewide child welfare system program improvement plan.

The planned efforts and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership lead to improved practice and services and will ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

5. **Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu**

Hawaii CWS contracts with local community social service agencies to provide crucial sex abuse treatment services to CWS families in need. On Oahu, in SFY 2025, CWS contracted with Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). The contract serves minor victims of parental sexual abuse, siblings of the victims, non-perpetrating parents, and parental

perpetrators of minor sex abuse. These services include assessment, skill building, individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy, as clinically indicated. Offenders are held accountable for their actions. Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions.

In SFY 2025, this contracted service on Oahu served 171 individuals, including victims, siblings of victims, and parents (perpetrators and non-perpetrators).

IV. SFY 2026 Planned Use of Funds

1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Please see the service description in Section IV.1. above. In SFY 2026, CWS is continuing these crucial services and plans to serve a total of approximately sixty families. Family Wrap Hawaii is engaging in concerted and creative efforts, together with families, to keep children safely in their family home without entering foster care, and to reunify children in foster care with their families of origin. In SFY 2026, Hawaii is also expanding its use of Parent Partners (parents with lived experience in the child welfare system who support and assist parents new to CWS) to support more CWS cases.

2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center

Please see Section IV.2. above. CWS plans to serve approximately twenty minor trafficking victims, along with their families, through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2026.

3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide

Please see Section IV.3. above. In SFY 2026, funding will be provided again for this vital annual conference, enhancing the knowledge of professionals and community members regarding the impact of violence, the destructive dynamics of abuse, trauma responses, and treatment/service/resource options. Approximately twenty CWS staff will attend statewide.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel

The Department financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) which is required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The purpose of the CRP is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities by (1) examining the policies, procedures, and practices of the State, and (2) reviewing specific cases, where appropriate.

In SFY 2026, SCASF may be used to help cover the costs for Panel Members to travel to the national CRP conference on the mainland. In SFY 2026, Hawaii's CRP has been supporting CWS's federal Child and Family Services Review and Family First Hawaii prevention services efforts.

5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)

Please see Section IV.5. above. The money will be used to pay for travel expenses for neighbor island CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors to join the rest of the team on Oahu for live leadership meetings.

In SFY 2026, in MLT meetings, CWS will ensure statewide awareness of the CFSR process and full participation from all sections. At MLT meetings, CWS leadership statewide will provide input on the State's CFSR Program Improvement Plan development and implementation.

6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

To remain current with its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay $60,000 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment in SFY 2026.

7. Domestic Violence Training

Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are identified as being impacted by domestic violence (DV). In SFY 2025, CWS will collaborate with other State agencies and community providers to build DV awareness through training to ensure the needed response to community domestic violence.

8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)

CWS is part of a statewide multidisciplinary group of professionals, largely from other State agencies, who work with children and their families. This group is working to break down systemic barriers so that collaboration across agencies occurs smoothly. CWS and the other member agencies contribute funds to this collaborative to ensure its continuation and to help families with needed services.

In SFY 2018, HISYNC proposed a resolution that was passed by the State Legislature, urging the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the judiciary to permanently establish and participate in the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC) to better serve youth and families with complex needs in the State. This official recognition promoted the continuation of the HISYNC committee beyond the existing membership, directing efforts of all entities toward better coordination and collaboration.

In SFY 2026, CWS is continuing to jointly fund facilitation services to support HISYNC. In SFY 2026, HISYNC is meeting monthly to discuss new and ongoing areas of need and collaboration regarding children's and families' physical and psychological health and safety. HISYNC is engaged in strategic planning to meet the goals and desired outcomes of HISYNC. This includes a focus on addressing the placement problem for youth in foster care who have behavioral challenges. Several currently sleep in the CWS offices with CWS staff because there are no appropriate placements for them. HISYNC is committed to identifying new housing/placement options for these young people. In SFY 2026, HISYNC is also actively supporting Hawaii Interagency Local Youth Network of Care (HILYNC) groups. These local groups meet to address the needs of children and

families within their communities. When HILYNC groups come across systemic barriers, they bring these broader issues to HISYNC for resolution.

9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu

Please see the service description in Section IV.8. above. CWS plans to continue to fund this crucial and well-utilized service in SFY 2026, serving approximately another 150 people on Oahu in need of sex abuse treatment.