



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
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By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Dr. Noreen Mokuau, Dean
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1023 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATION

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing:

As the Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work (MBT SSW) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa I am pleased to support SB 1023 which funds the opportunity for collaboration between the MBT SSW and DHS/CWS. SB 1023 appropriated funds will allow for the restoration of the Hawai'i Child Welfare Education Collaboration which assists in the training of graduate students from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for child welfare positions at the Department of Human Services.

MBT SSW and DHS/CWS have a history of collaboration and partnership in successfully recruiting and training social work students to work in the child welfare field in Hawai'i. If approved, the funding allocation for HCWEC will address well documented work force shortages within child welfare services.

MBTSSW is uniquely positioned to support HCWEC due to previous collaborative efforts with DHS/CWS as well as our capacity to deliver the MSW degree program to students who reside on each of the neighbor islands, thus ensuring funds appropriate to the HCWEC support DHS/CWS workforce development statewide.

We support your favorable consideration of SB 1023 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.