

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
2015**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
December 2014**

SFY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, created a Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Act 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 Department's 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 Department's Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow the Department to fund additional program needs. The ceiling was further raised to \$610,000 per Act 158, SLH 2008. The SCASA funds are administered by the DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS).

The Department is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, providing an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the account.

SFY 2014	
A. Balance on 7/1/13	\$ 431,713.20
B. SFY 2014 Revenues	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$ 256,022.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 36,573.33
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	\$ 114,984.00
Total revenue	\$ 407,579.33
	Total Funds: \$ 839,292.53
C. EXPENDITURES for SFY 2014:	
1. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$ 46,315.95
2. Domestic Violence Services Training	\$ 2,433.45
3. CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings	\$ 20,504.98
4. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support	\$ 6,863.90
5. Continuous Quality Improvement Services	\$ 1,869.33
6. National Youth in Transition Database Support	\$ 450.00
D. Total SFY 2014 Expenditures:	\$ 78,437.61
	Carry over to 7/1/14:
SFY 2015	
E. Balance on 7/1/14 (A + B - D)	\$ 760,854.92
F. Anticipated Revenue SFY 2014	\$ 400,000.00

	Projected Total:	\$1,160,854.92
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2015		
1.	DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$ 55,541.00
2.	Services for Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care	\$ 150,000.00
3.	CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings	\$ 40,000.00
4.	Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support	\$ 20,000.00
5.	Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors	\$ 200,000.00
6.	Safety, Permanency, and Wellbeing Intensive Action Roundtables	\$ 300,000.00
H. Total Planned Expenditures for SFY 2015		\$ 765,541.00
I. Estimated Balance 7/1/15 (E + F – H)		\$ 395,313.92

PLANNED USE OF FUNDS FOR SFY 2015

1. DAGS Special Fund Assessment (\$55,541.00)

The current spending plan for SFY 2015 will ensure no delinquent payments for the Department of Accounting and General Services’ (DAGS) Special Assessment Fee. This obligation was in arrears in the past years due to the State’s financial crisis requiring the Department to prioritize the use of the SCASA fund for services to ensure the health and safety of child and spouse abuse victims. The DHS will pay \$55,451.00 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessment. With this payment, the Department will remain current with this obligation.

2. Services for Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care (\$150,000)

CWS plans to use funds to support specialized services for medically fragile infants and toddlers in foster care. The program works with birth parents and resource caregivers to transition the care of the infant or toddler to a more permanent setting. Specially-trained caregivers work with the child’s doctors to teach and train birth parents or other caregivers on specialized care for the child and support the parent/caregiver in daily care for the child.

3. CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings (\$40,000)

These funds support the CWS Management Leadership Team initiative which brings together CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors statewide. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans for enhancing services to CWS children and families; 2) networks across all islands, sharing local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, as well as sharing and discussing statewide and section data and its implications for practice improvements; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State statutes, governing rules, procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

4. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support (\$20,000)

The Department will financially support the Citizen Review Panel (CRP), required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Funding will provide airfare for Neighbor

Island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. This will allow the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

5. Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors and their Children (\$200,000)

Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for survivors of domestic violence. Although the Department has been providing emergency shelter and support services for victims of spouse abuse since 2010, there is an unmet need for transitional housing services. These services will provide a necessary bridge from immediate safety toward increased skills and resources that promote self-sufficiency, economic security, stable housing, and the opportunity to break the cycle of violence.

6. Safety, Permanency, and Wellbeing Intensive Action Roundtables (\$300,000)

The Department is committed to moving children in foster care into safe, permanent family homes as soon as possible, because it is well-known that children thrive in permanent, nurturing family environments. These funds will be used for services to bring State and private agencies and community partners together on a case (which involves children who are unable to reunify with their parents) to work intensively to design and enact an action plan that will have the children in the case adopted or in a permanent legal guardianship home as soon as safely possible. It is anticipated that this service will decrease the amount of time that children are in foster care and will improve children's wellbeing.