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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339  
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December 27, 2018

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

The Honorable Scott Saiki  
Speaker and Members of the House  
of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and members of the Legislature,

Attached is the following report submitted in accordance with:

- SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL ACCOUNT.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, copies of these reports have been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library and the reports may be viewed electronically at <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Pankaj Bhanot  
Director

Ec copy only:

Office of the Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Department of Budget & Finance  
Legislative Auditor  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, House Committee on Human Services &  
Homelessness

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

**REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2019**

**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 2018**

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**I. 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 DHS'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 DHS's 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.

The SCASA funds are administered by 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.

**II. SFY 2018 BUDGET**

A. Balance on 7/1/17	\$160,076
<b>B. SFY 2018 REVENUE</b>	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$281,921
Miscellaneous	\$35,970
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	\$100,319
Subtotal Revenue	\$418,210
Total Revenue	\$578,286
<b>C. SFY 2018 EXPENDITURES / ENCUMBERENCES</b>	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$66,225
2. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services	\$72,957
3. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$171,373
4. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$7,317
5. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$9,900
6. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$26,867
7. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$92,119
8. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$40,000
9. Continuous Quality Improvement Evaluations	\$89,423
Total Expenditures/Encumbrances	\$576,181
D. Carry-over to SFY 2019	\$2,105

**III. SFY 2019 BUDGET**

E. Balance on 7/1/18	\$2,105
F. SFY 2019 PROJECTED REVENUE Projected Revenue all sources	\$430,000
Total Projected Revenue	\$432,105
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2019	
1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.	\$100,000
2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center	\$100,000
3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide	\$40,000
4. Hawaii State Citizen’s Review Panel	\$40,000
5. CWS Management Leadership Team	\$40,000
6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$34,000
7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$25,000
8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	\$30,000
Total Planned Expenditures	\$409,000
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/19	\$23,105

**IV. SFY 2018 Outcomes**

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

Family Wrap Hawaii Services are provided to families with children in foster care. The children may be able to be reunified 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 all these 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 works with DOE, DOH, Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to return to their family.

As a result of Family Wrap Hawaii Services in SFY 2018, 24 children in foster care could safely reunify with their families. 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. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services**

Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services is a core service that CWS provides to families who have children in foster care. These services help the families acquire the skills and information they need to have their children returned to their care. The array of services provided is broad and includes: assessment, individualized program planning, parenting education, crisis intervention, counseling, supervised visitation, budgeting, practical life skills enhancement, nutritional assistance, transportation, advocacy, resource development, family management skills development, and clinical therapy. Unfortunately, there are often waitlists for these crucial services. With more funding for these contracted services, waitlists will be reduced, families will receive the necessary services sooner, and children in foster care will be reunified with their parents at a faster rate.

In SFY 2018, 955 families statewide received these core services, with more than half of those families being served on Oahu.

## **3. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center**

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

In SFY 2018, these contracted services supported 56 confirmed minor trafficking survivors, and served an additional 41 potential trafficking victims. Without these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer significantly more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

## **4. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide**

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Hawaii hosts an annual conference which features national and local experts presenting on 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 foster youth. CWS' contribution to the conference funding also allowed 46 CWS staff to attend this learning opportunity in SFY 2018. CWS' support to bring this conference to its staff and the community is essential to keep Hawaii 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 mainland conferences. Increasing our staff's knowledge and experience enables them to better serve our children and families.

## **5. Hawaii State Citizen 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. Funding provides airfare for neighbor island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. This allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining the Child Welfare Services (CWS) systems and making recommendations for improvements.

In SFY 2018, Hawaii's CRP focused on public awareness campaigns on the issues of minor sex trafficking and substance-exposed children.

## **6. CWS Management Leadership Team**

SCASA also funded the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiative which brings together CWS Section 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, and reviews statewide and local data and its 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 2018, CWS continued its work in its Management Leadership Team of focusing on national measures and standards as CWS is entering its third federally-mandated Program Improvement Plan, based on a thorough statewide assessment of cases and systemic factors. The planned effort and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will lead to improved practice and services which will ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

## **7. DAGS Special Fund Assessment**

To fulfill its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS paid \$92,119 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessments.

## **8. DV Training and DV Fatality Review**

In SFY 2018, CWS collaborated with other agencies and community providers to develop and implement a statewide training on working with families who are experiencing domestic violence, with over 300 attendees. Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are also struggling with domestic violence.

## **9. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Evaluations – University of Hawaii, Maui College**

Key to CWSB success is rigorous continuous quality improvement efforts, where services and practices are regularly evaluated by external experts to provide necessary insight for continued growth. CWSB has contracted with the University of Hawaii, Maui College to provide this evaluation and expertise. In SFY 2018, among other reviews and evaluations, the Maui College CQI team conducted case reviews of 99 randomly-selected cases across all geographic areas of the State, using a national standard tool. The results of these case reviews have been used to create action-oriented improvement plans for each CWSB section.

## **V. Planned Use of Funds for SFY 2019**

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

Please see Section IV.2 above. CWS hopes to serve an additional 30 children with this program in SFY 2019.

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

Please see Section IV.4. above. CWS plans to serve approximately 60 minor trafficking victims through this contracted service in SFY 2019.

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

Please see Section IV.5. above. CWS plans to continue to contribute to the funding of this annual conference, including the attendance of a significant portion of CWS direct-service staff.

### **4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel (CRP)**

Please see Section IV.6. above. DHS plans to continue its federal obligation to fund this Citizens' Review Panel.

In SFY 2019, the Citizens' Review Panel plans to assist CWSB in workforce support and development. This work will include CRP serving as an advisory board in a forum where line staff voice their concerns to administrators, and developing "joy ambassador" programs in each CWS region statewide, similar to the therapy canine program in CWS Maui.

### **5. CWS Management Leadership Team**

Please see Section IV.7. above which outlines the purpose of CWS Management Leadership Team. In SFY 2019, among other projects and initiatives, the Management Leadership Team will be working on coordinated implementation of Hawaii's federal Child and Families Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan. Successful completion of



the plan and the corresponding performance improvement is required to continue to review federal funding for CWS.

## **6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment**

To remain current with its fiscal obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay \$34,000 to the DAGS for the required Special Fund Assessments in SFY 2019. However, the administration is submitting a legislative proposal to amongst other things exempt SCASA from the special fund assessment expenses, allowing further use of these special funds for spouse and child abuse prevention and intervention services.

## **7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review**

Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare are also struggling with domestic violence. In SFY 2019, CWS will continue to partner with other State agencies and community providers to build awareness, and to thoroughly review fatality cases 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 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 promotes for the continuation of the HISYNC committee beyond the existing membership, directing efforts of all entities toward better coordination and collaboration.

Also in SFY 2018, through the collaboration of HISYNC partners, the first Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued, as a joint effort between DHS/CWS, DHS/OYS, DOH/ADAD and DOH/CAMHD, to procure a joint crisis home for youth with high needs who cannot be maintained in their homes, yet do not meet criteria for other placement settings.

In SFY 2019, the contract for the joint crisis home for youth with high needs will be awarded. This contract will be the first of its kind in the State. Among other projects, HISYNC will focus energy on guiding, monitoring, and shaping the new contacted service.