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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the  
2 department of human services' Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Annual  
3 Progress and Services Report, the rise of children in foster  
4 care over the past five years, from state fiscal year 2014  
5 through state fiscal year 2019, reflects a twenty-nine per cent  
6 increase in the annual total number of children in foster care,  
7 and a 43.7 per cent increase in the monthly average number of  
8 children in foster care for that period. The report also  
9 indicates that over the past five years, workers' percentage of  
10 monthly caseworker visits to children in foster care was eighty-  
11 six per cent or below, which is well below the national standard  
12 of ninety-five per cent. In addition, the strength rate of  
13 child and family involvement in case planning decreased from  
14 fifty-five per cent in 2015 to thirty-four per cent in 2019, and  
15 the strength rating of the mental and behavioral health of the  
16 child decreased from eighty-seven per cent in 2015, to forty-  
17 seven per cent in 2019. The legislature finds that these



1 statistics signify the need for modern, web-based technology  
2 that can support the department of human services' child welfare  
3 services branch.

4 The legislature further finds that having modern software  
5 that workers can access on their mobile phones during case  
6 visits and doing field work will allow workers to more  
7 effectively manage their caseloads to meet the growing number of  
8 children in foster care, ensure that Hawaii can meet the  
9 national standard for monthly visits, improve case planning, and  
10 strengthen child and family involvement to improve mental and  
11 behavioral health outcomes for youth and the health needs for  
12 children.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Require the child welfare services branch of the  
15 department of human services to establish a pilot  
16 program to develop a modern case management software  
17 solution compatible with existing child welfare  
18 technology; and

19 (2) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The child welfare services branch of the  
21 department of human services shall establish a child welfare



1 services case management pilot program to develop a modern case  
2 management software solution compatible with existing child  
3 welfare technology.

4 (b) The pilot program shall be headed by the branch  
5 administrator of the department of human services' child welfare  
6 services branch, or the branch administrator's designee.

7 (c) The department shall contract with a qualified child  
8 welfare software provider to develop the case management  
9 software solution, which shall include the following features

10 (1) A method for case workers to:

11 (A) More effectively track the children in their  
12 caseload management;

13 (B) Create and manage case plans; and

14 (C) Manage ongoing visits in the home and in  
15 coordination with siblings and families of  
16 origin;

17 (2) A family portal for resource caregiver families to  
18 easily document information related to the care of  
19 children in their homes, including information related  
20 to the documentation of medical and dental visits;



1 (3) Online access for families to information related to  
2 the care of children placed in their care, including  
3 allergy, education, and health information; and

4 (4) A portal for older youth in care to access resources  
5 online about available support services.

6 (d) The child welfare services branch shall submit reports  
7 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
8 convening of the regular sessions of 2023 and 2024, including a  
9 status update on the development of the child welfare services  
10 case management software solution, findings and recommendations,  
11 and any proposed legislation.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
15 the child welfare services case management pilot program  
16 established by this Act.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 human services for the purposes of this Act.

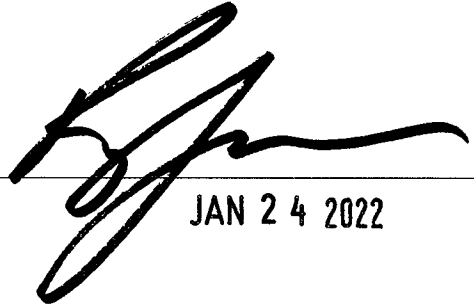
19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
20 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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H.B. NO. 1932

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2022



# H.B. NO. 1932

**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Child Welfare Services; Pilot Program; Case Management Software; Appropriation

**Description**

Requires the child welfare services branch of the department of human services to establish a pilot program to develop a modern case management software solution compatible with existing child welfare technology. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

