



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by

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Deputy Chief Judge/Senior Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 770, H.D.1, Relating to Human Services

Purpose: Requires the Department of Human Services to permit access to their website to conduct child and vulnerable adult abuse perpetrator checks for employment, volunteer, licensure, or certification background checks.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on the merits of this bill but has the following strong concern about the inclusion of Section 3 in this bill. Child abuse records contain sensitive, confidential information that can be very harmful to victims and innocent family members. Public access to this computerized sensitive information is a grave concern. Even with the supposed protections listed in the bill, there is always a risk that such damaging information might be inadvertently released and/or misused. As everyone knows in this modern technological world, once information has been inappropriately released, very little can be done to either effectively retrieve the information, prevent further dissemination, or to blunt the negative effects of its release.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.