

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2005**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 237,
SLH 2004**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION
NOVEMBER 2004**

REPORT ON ACT 237, EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE DIRECT SERVICES PILOT PROJECT, EAST HAWAII

Act 237 called for the establishment of a pilot project in East Hawaii to provide community-based, collaborative, comprehensive early childhood care for children under five and their families. This pilot project would be based on the Hui Imua O Koolauloa model that subsidizes services for underserved, high risk families for families that do not qualify for other forms of subsidy. \$200, 000 in State general funds was appropriated for the pilot project to be used for the implementation of the delivery system and not for planning, studies, and other strategic functions.

Act 237 requires a report on the pilot project, including its status, outcomes, and findings and recommendations on whether the pilot project should be continued or made permanent.

Status

The Hui Imua program was originally started under a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. The design of the program was to empower the community to make decisions for itself. The focus was on getting the parents in the community to play an active role in identifying gap services that they needed and getting them to take responsibility for meeting community needs. The premise being that the community can organize itself and run itself.

It is our understanding that community advocates feel that certain services, normally available through the Department, are not available to all families because the families do not meet the eligibility criteria. The funding in this bill was intended to aid the community to bridge the gap for services such as child care and other services to assist children. The Hui Imua program was implemented on Windward Oahu. The goal is to accomplish the same thing in East Hawaii by having the Hui Imua parents consult with the East Hawaii parents.

It is unclear precisely what target group is intended for this bill and what services would be funded. Without the provision of funding for the Department to facilitate the community of East Hawaii to identify its desired target group and service needs, the bill is difficult to implement. Nevertheless, once the release of funds for this project is approved, this project will be put out to bid.