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Dear PIP Stakeholders and Partners:

Thank you for your open and ongoing participation in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and in the follow-up Program Improvement Plan (PIP) process.

To recap, on September 24-25, 2003, a day-and-a-half conference was held to begin the PIP process of consulting with our partners/stakeholders in developing a plan of action/response to the findings of the CFSR. The conference, sponsored by the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS), was scheduled to follow the anticipated receipt of the Federal findings report on August 18, 2003 – the Federally prescribed deadline for ACF to report back to DHS. Although ACF was not able to meet the deadline and produce the findings report in time for the PIP conference, they encouraged Hawaii to proceed with preliminary information, verbally shared by the Federal agency.

On November 6, 2003, we received the Federal findings report. An electronic version of the report was subsequently made available and we are now able to electronically share a copy with you. There are no major surprises. It is pretty much the same as what was reported at the PIP conference. A DHS summary of the CFSR performance ratings for East Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu is also provided.

The Federal government conducts these reviews in every state to encourage open discussion of the strengths and opportunities for improvement in the complex, demanding and challenging field of child welfare practice. Please join me in reviewing the report and in developing a PIP that will bring about "aggressive system reform that is doable and sustainable" by February 4, 2004. I anticipate, based on the experience of other states that preceded us, that there will be a negotiation period of a few months with ACF to reach agreement on an approvable PIP.

Sincerely,

Lillian B. Koller, Esq.
Director

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