

have the authority—not the military—to take emergency custody and order foster care placement for children without the consent of a parent. But this could only happen if officials in Hawaii knew about the abuse.

In Talia's case, a number of people were aware of her maltreatment. Yet no report was received by the report point of contact, who was the person on base mandated to report to Hawaii's Child Protective Services. The court in Tarshia Williams' civil suit found that military law enforcement, the doctors who treated Talia, and at least one or two family counselors had reason to suspect that violence was occurring in the Williams home. At least one person on base directly reported to the family advocacy program her concerns for Talia's well-being. No action was taken. Talia remained in the home while time and again law enforcement personnel and others were called to investigate or received reports of abuse. Not enough was done to remove her from her home. This lack of action was and is unacceptable. No one followed up on Talia's case to the degree we all should expect. Information about the abuse she lived through never reached the Army provost, who, under the MOU with the State of Hawaii, was the single person required to alert Child Welfare Services. And Talia died.

This loophole, which puts us in a position of hoping and trusting that information of abuse makes it to the reporting point of contact, must be addressed. My amendment would fix this problem by establishing a legal requirement that any federally mandated reporter with credible evidence or suspicion of child abuse notify both the DOD's Family Advocacy Program and the appropriate State's child welfare department. This amendment would eliminate the bottleneck of having only one reporting point of contact. Instead, mandatory reporters—which include teachers, doctors, law enforcement, and others—must directly report such evidence or suspicion both up the chain of command and also over to the appropriate State authorities. I am hopeful that by requiring such dual reporting, no military-connected children will remain in abusive homes because information never made it to the right person.

There were many mistakes made in Talia's case. Some of those mistakes are of the type that no law might rectify—a reluctance of people to get involved in the affairs of others, the reluctance to implicate abuse, perhaps fear of repercussions or out of respect for a member's service and personal affability. However, in a case such as Talia's, more should have been done and could have been done if only the right people were made aware of the situation.

I hope we do not continue to ignore this one glaring reporting loophole, leaving in place a hole in our safety net wide enough to miss the torture and untimely death of a child like Talia.

I recognize that time on the Defense authorization is short. I am sure the Department of Defense shares my concerns on this issue. I look forward to working with the Department and my colleagues to close this reporting loophole.

### 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I would like to take a few minutes to shift gears to another issue of great importance. This issue is more hopeful. On June 15, 2012, President Obama enacted DACA—or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—granting deferred action to DREAMers all across the country. Three years later, almost 700,000 hard-working young people are proof that deferred action works.

DACA has changed the lives of countless students who were brought to our country as undocumented children through no fault of their own. The President's action has been truly transformative for many young people in Hawaii. Let me tell you about three such young people.

Gabriela emigrated from Brazil with her family at the age of 15. Despite a 3.8 GPA in high school, she found herself unable to go to college because she lacked required documentation. After receiving DACA, Gabriela enrolled in a community college, paying instate tuition, and is receiving her associate's degree in the spring of 2015 and transferring to the University of Hawaii to earn her bachelor's degree. Receiving DACA was a life-changing moment for Gabriela because it enabled her to do everyday things that she was never able to do before, such as getting a driver's license, opening a bank account, renting her own apartment. It also enabled her to get an education, start a career, and live up to her full potential.

Sam was born in Tonga and brought to Hawaii when he was only 4 years old. His parents petitioned for residency for the whole family. But as a result of a slow and ineffective immigration system, Sam was over 18 years old by the time their petition became current. As a result, 18-year-old Sam was put into deportation proceedings and came very close to being torn away from his family and deported to a country he no longer remembered. Thankfully, the President announced the DACA Program and Sam was granted a stay of deportation and allowed to remain with his family. Today, Sam works as a music director at his church and is currently saving money to return to school and seek his dream of higher education.

Shingai is a DREAMer from Zimbabwe, who immigrated to the United States when he was 12. He did not find out he was undocumented until he graduated from high school and decided to apply for college. Shingai was a star football athlete and won a full football scholarship to go to

college. Unfortunately, with stardom came immediate attention. Due to his undocumented status, he was forced to quit his dream and protect himself and his family from the public eye. Shingai knew the importance of education, so he pursued his degree a few classes at a time. This semester, he is finally set to graduate and earn a bachelor's in political science from Hawaii Pacific University. Receiving DACA has enabled Shingai to come out of the shadows and share his story in order to raise awareness and empower immigrant youth in Hawaii.

These DREAMers no longer have the fear of deportation and family separation hanging over their heads each and every day. DACA recipients are now free to live their lives, to seek an education and work as teachers, engineers, enter our armed services, become business owners.

DACA is life-changing for these young people, but it also has helped all Americans.

Forty-nine percent of DREAMers who were granted DACA were able to open their first bank account, 33 percent were able to obtain a credit card, 60 percent have been able to gain new jobs, contributing to our tax base and our economy. Experts estimate that all deferred action recipients will add \$230 billion to our gross domestic product in the next decade. Quite simply, DACA works.

The American public stands with our DREAMers and immigrant families and smart policies like DACA. Over 70 percent of Americans reject the mass deportation approach favored by some and instead support the President's Executive action. However, DACA is only a temporary solution to address one part of our broken immigration system. It is not a substitute for comprehensive immigration reform.

It has been roughly 2 years since the Senate passed an immigration reform bill with strong bipartisan support. After House Republicans refused to act on comprehensive immigration reform, President Obama built on the success of DACA to use his well-established Executive authority to expand the DACA Program and create a new program for the parents of children born as U.S. citizens. I strongly support the President's action.

Both of these programs could be up and running, helping families and individuals, millions of them, but for a lawsuit filed by some Republican Governors opposed to immigration reform. We must continue fighting to provide relief for millions of parents who should be signing up for DAPA right now, paying their fees and applying for work permits, additional young people who qualify for DACA as well as millions of other hard-working families facing deportation every single day in our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, this is week 14 of “Waste of the Week.” I have been coming to the floor for 14 weeks while the Senate has been in session this year to talk about yet another waste which, if we can correct, can save the taxpayers a lot of money. In this case, we are talking about several billion dollars that have been determined by the inspector general of the Social Security Administration to have been spent improperly, accidentally—by whatever reason—money that belongs to the taxpayers and falls under the category of waste.

It is waste, and I give this inspector general and his staff great credit for doing something very creative and interesting. Actually, this is their job, delving into how an agency handles its business and, more importantly, how it handles the taxpayers’ money. Whether you are looking at big business or big government, you find examples of cost cutting that can save the company and, in this case, save the taxpayer, a very significant amount of money.

The inspector general decided to take a random sample of over 1,500 beneficiaries of the Social Security disability fund, and 44.5 percent of them received an overpayment at some point during the 10-year period that he studied. And based on this sample, the Social Security inspector general estimated that overpayments totaled about \$16.8 billion over a period of time from October 2003 to February 2014, covering nearly 4 million beneficiaries. Now, that is a lot of people, but in this digital age, there are ways in which we can ensure that correct payments are made to the right people and that we don’t end up overspending money that comes from hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Now, there is some good news to this story because the Social Security Administration, following up on this study, determined to go through its records and try to recover some of this money that had been overpaid. They were successful in recovering nearly half of the \$16.8 billion. They recovered \$8.1 billion of overpayments during this period of time, and I commend them for their effort in doing that. But while we celebrate the good news, we also need to dig in and determine how we make sure this doesn’t continue.

There is another \$8.7 billion out there that needs to be recovered and, of course, the goal is to not only recover that money, if possible, but also to keep this from continuing in out-years. So let us put the steps in place that will give us the ability to stop this from happening going forward.

Now, let me go back and give a little background, the history of how this all came about and how this happened. Of those who improperly received benefits, the circumstances break down like this: Nearly 40 percent—actually 37.9 percent—of the overpayments happened when individuals started working and made enough money by law to support themselves and, therefore, no longer qualified for Social Security disability benefits. Another 23 percent had their medical condition improved to the point where they could go back to work.

Now, interestingly enough, I believe it was my very first “Waste of the Week” that I pointed out that a very significant number of individuals were receiving payments both from Social Security disability and unemployment insurance. To receive unemployment insurance, you have to prove you cannot work or you have been thrown out of work and can’t get back. To receive Social Security disability payments, you have to prove you no longer are able to work and get back. Yet these people were receiving payments from both of those sources.

That was the very first “Waste of the week,” and we put up a chart indicating that we are hoping to reach our goal of \$100 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse, to show the example of money being sent to Washington. Some say: We can’t cut a penny from any program. Well, every business that has gone through this great recession—now going on for the sixth year or so—has had to make sacrifices and they have had to cut costs. Families have had to cut costs. Businesses have had to cut costs. Only the Federal Government says we can’t cut a penny; every program we have is valuable and has to be saved and, in fact, needs more money to be efficient.

So let’s start with those issues that have been determined, through inspections by independent agencies, and proven to have fraud and waste and see if we can add this up. As you can see, this gauge is growing every week.

Returning to the breakdown of those who improperly received benefits: Another 8.6 percent had multiple reasons they were no longer eligible for the benefit, 7.5 percent were imprisoned and had fugitive status, which means they were no longer qualified for the disability benefits, but 7.2 percent of those people continued to receive checks after they had died. So you not only have people in prison and therefore no longer eligible, but 7.2 percent of the people receiving benefits received those after they died, and that totaled up to a very significant amount of money.

Again, we certainly have the technology and the capability to run the death records through the system to make sure checks are not continuing to be sent out to the last home address or whatever to deceased individuals and then taken in and cashed perhaps by family or who knows who.

There were 3.4 percent who weren’t entitled to benefits in the first place. It should be pretty easy to scratch those names and save some money. There were 1.8 percent who had their payment improperly computed—in other words, overpayment, a mistake made by the Social Security Administration—1.8 percent had financial resources exceeding the limit which they were supposed to get, 1.7 percent had a change in their living arrangements—they moved abroad and no longer were eligible—and 5 percent fell under another category of reasons.

The bottom line is an inspection was made, a study was conducted to see how this came about, and we now have the information that money was returned through legal process, but there is still \$8.7 billion out there we didn’t get back. So we want to make sure measures are now put in place so this doesn’t continue. We certainly don’t want some Senator on the floor 5 years or 10 years from now saying: Let me tell you about the latest study of the Social Security inspector general, and when the former Senator from Indiana came to the floor he announced there was \$8.7 billion still out there and that we ought to make changes in the system so it wouldn’t happen again. But guess what. It didn’t get done, and now here I am back at it.

So let’s do this now. Let’s make these changes now so the American people understand we are here not to extort them from the kind of overpayment that is taking place and using their taxpayer dollars to achieve that goal. We can fix this problem, but it is going to take some work.

We need better cross-referencing for beneficiaries with other government lists or private lists to help identify earned wages or other assets. We need information sharing that can save billions and make a significant financial debt into these unfortunate overpayments.

Assuming the trend of the IG report continues, this change can be made, and the missing \$8.7 billion in overpayments can be recovered by the Social Security Administration in future payments. We haven’t calculated what potentially we could save in out-years because, hopefully, we will be able to put measures in place, now that we have this information, that will stop these overpayments from being made. But we do know there is \$8.7 billion out there of money that can be recovered.

So we are adding today a big chunk of money, bringing us up nearly to three-quarters of our goal of reaching \$100 billion in savings from waste, fraud, and abuse. We are only into week 14, and we have several more weeks and months ahead of us. I am hoping we are going to have to put an extension onto this chart. We will see how high it goes. Because our goal is to save the taxpayer dollars that the Federal Government has been proven to waste through waste, fraud, and abuse.

Madam President, I yield the floor.