



GOV. MSG. NO. 825

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

June 17, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on June 17, 2008, the following bill was signed into law:

HB523 HD2 SD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN.  
(ACT 183)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 17 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 183**  
**H.B. NO.** 523  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

- 1           SECTION 1. Chapter 587, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:
- 4           "§587- Foster children; guiding principles. (a) The  
5 department, as foster or permanent custodian, shall abide by the  
6 following guiding principles and shall ensure that foster  
7 children:
- 8           (1) Live in a safe and healthy home, free from physical,  
9           psychological, sexual, and other abuse;
- 10           (2) Have adequate:
- 11                 (A) Food that is nutritious and healthy;  
12                 (B) Clothing;  
13                 (C) Medical, dental and orthodontic, and corrective  
14                 vision care; and
- 15                 (D) Mental health services;
- 16           (3) Have supervised in-person contact and telephone or  
17 mail correspondence with the child's parents and



- 1 siblings while the child is in foster care unless  
2 prohibited by court order;
- 3 (4) Have direct contact with a social worker, guardian ad  
4 litem, and probation officer;
- 5 (5) May freely exercise their own religious beliefs,  
6 including refusal to attend any religious activities  
7 and services;
- 8 (6) Have a personal bank account and assistance managing  
9 their personal income, consistent with the child's age  
10 and development, unless prohibited due to safety or  
11 health concerns;
- 12 (7) Have the right to attend school and participate in  
13 appropriate extracurricular activities, and, if a  
14 child is moved during a school year, complete the  
15 school year at the same school, if practicable; and
- 16 (8) Are provided with life skills training and a  
17 transition plan starting at age twelve to provide  
18 adequate transitioning for children aging out of the  
19 foster care system. The department shall provide  
20 written information to all foster children twelve  
21 years of age or older and their foster parents about  
22 available independent living programs, including



1           available foster youth organizations, transitional  
2           planning services, and independent living case  
3           management programs.

4           (b) The family court may issue any necessary orders, sua  
5           sponte or upon appropriate motion, to the department of  
6           education, department of human services, or department of health  
7           to ensure adherence to the guiding principles enumerated in  
8           subsection (a)."

9           SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

10          SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 17 day of JUN , 2008



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

