STAND. COM. REP. NO. 603

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 1 6 2007

RE: S.B. No. 1442

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2007 State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 1442 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD ALLOWANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the time limit for application for a higher education board allowance to provide former foster youth who are between the ages of twenty-two and twenty-six years of age on July 1, 2007, and already attending an institution of higher education, an opportunity to apply for a higher education board allowance within a year; and
- (2) Increases the maximum age for the benefit from twentyone years of age to twenty-six years of age with a maximum benefit period of sixty months.

The Department of Human Services; Child Welfare Services; the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition; the Hawaii Youth Services Network; Legal Aid Society of Hawaii; EPIC, Inc.; Hawaii Family Forum; and two individuals submitted testimony in support of this measure. Kapi'olani Child Protection Center submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that this measure will improve the educational prospects of former foster youth. As noted by the





Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, at present there is a narrow window of opportunity for former foster youth to apply for a higher education allowance, which requires the former foster youth to have begun attending an accredited institution of higher learning within one school year after high school. However, upon turning eighteen years of age, many former foster youth leave with a desire for freedom and without realizing what benefits may be available to them. Increasing the time limit and the maximum age for the benefit will enable those former foster youth who did not attend an accredited institution of higher learning within one school year after high school to apply for the benefit and have a chance to become a better educated adult.

It is your Committee's intent to help former foster youth to successfully transition to independent adult status. Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1442, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1442, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing,

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Fourth Legislature State of Hawaii

Record of Votes Committee on Human Services and Public Housing HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1442	Committee Referral:		Date: 2-15-07		
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	V			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)		<i>V</i>			
SAKAMOTO, Norman					
HEMMINGS, Fred					
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TOTAL		3	0	0	/
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency					

^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes