MAR 1 6 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE MY SAFE DRAWER COMPUTER APPLICATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH WHO ARE TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the transition from foster care to adulthood is a very difficult path for many former foster care individuals; and

WHEREAS, former foster youth frequently leave foster care with little more than paper copies of essential personal information; and

WHEREAS, former foster youth may not have a permanent living arrangement established and may move from house to house, and in this process may lose their vital documents; and

WHEREAS, losing vital documents may present obstacles to former foster youth when applying for a job, completing an application to college, or receiving medical care; and

WHEREAS, to address this challenge, CGI, a leading information technology and business process services provider, developed My Safe Drawer; and

WHEREAS, My Safe Drawer is a secure, password-protected, web-based application that can be accessed from any computer; and

WHEREAS, My Safe Drawer houses a foster youth's health and education information and personal and professional contacts, and allows for the upload and storage of personal documents such as a copy of a birth certificate, social security card, and resume; and

WHEREAS, CGI is seeking a partnership with a state department that would be interested in implementing My Safe Drawer on a statewide basis; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services is the state department that provides independent living services to assist and support foster youth with their transition from foster care to adult self-sufficiency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Human Services is encouraged to consider partnering with CGI to implement My Safe Drawer throughout the State's foster care

 to implement My Safe Drawer throughout the State's foster care system as a means to assist and support foster youth with their successful transition out of foster care; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawaii, and members of the Hawaii Transition Age Youth Task Force.

OFFERED BY:

Maanne Chun Odlland

