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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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LATE
Testimony

January 27, 2011

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 726 - RELATING TO FOSTER CHILDREN**

Hearing: Thursday, January 27, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 726 is to give children in foster care the option to remain under the jurisdiction of the Family Court system until they reach the age of twenty-one; and amend current law to require a transition plan for children once they have reached the age of fourteen.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services defers to the Family Court regarding Section 2 which would extend the jurisdiction of the family Court until the foster child reaches the age of twenty-one.

The Department will also be consulting with the federal Administration for Children and Families on the ramifications of the extension of jurisdiction to age twenty-one in chapter 587A.

The Department supports Section 4 of this bill that amends chapter 587A-31 (c)(8), Hawaii Revised Statutes, that lowers that age that a child can be provided needed transitional planning and services from age sixteen years to age fourteen years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

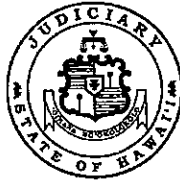
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From: Marvin.H.Nakagawa@courts.state.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 5:19 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony for HB726 on 1/27/11
Attachments: HB726(HUS).pdf

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Testimony

Attached please find testimony from the Hawaii State Judiciary:

TESTIFIER: Rodney A. Maile, Administrative Director of the Courts
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Human Services
HEARING DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
MEASURE NO: HB726, Relating to Foster Children
NO. OF COPIES: 10



THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair

The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 27, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by

Rodney A. Maile

Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Bill No. 726, Relating to Foster Children

Purpose: Provides that the Family Court may extend jurisdiction to age 21 over children in Child Protective Act proceedings under HRS Chapter 587A.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on the policy issue in House Bill No. 726 of extending the jurisdiction of the Family Courts to the child's twenty-first birthday in proceedings under HRS Chapter 587A. However, we note that extending the Court's jurisdiction will only be effective if there is a continuation of services and resources, which are currently provided to minors by the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for your opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 7:13 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: sterlingw@oha.org
Subject: Testimony for HB726 on 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB726 Foster Children.pdf

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony for HUS 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM HB726

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sterling Wong
Organization: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Address: 711 Kapiolani Blvd Ste 500 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 594-1834
E-mail: sterlingw@oha.org
Submitted on: 1/26/2011

Comments:



HB 726
RELATING TO FOSTER CHILDREN
House Committee on Human Services

January 27, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB726, which would give children in the foster care system the option to remain under the jurisdiction of the family court system until they reach the age of twenty-one. It also amends current law to require a transition plan for children once they have reached the age of fourteen.

The OHA Administration will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees support HB726. Approximately 52 percent of the children placed in foster care in Hawai'i are of Native Hawaiian ancestry and are significantly impacted when they exit the foster care system. This measure would provide these children with the transitional support they need to become productive and self-sufficient adults.

Many former foster youth are unprepared for the realities of making a living on their own after exiting a foster home. They have difficulty with the transition of supporting themselves with the basic necessities like food, clothing, and housing. This has resulted in a high number of former foster youth who are unemployed, homeless, or often times incarcerated.

The OHA Administration will make this recommendation to our Board of Trustees at its meeting on February 3, 2011. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.