

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2007

RE: S.B. No. 1162
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. 1162 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide notice of permanent plan hearings to a child who has reached the age of fourteen.

The Department of Human Services, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, and three individuals submitted testimony in support of this measure.

Your Committee finds that this measure will improve the quality of services provided to foster youth. As noted by the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the presence of foster youth at permanent plan review hearings will give the foster youth a direct voice in the proceedings affecting them, and also provide a greater level of accountability to the court for social workers and guardians ad litem that are assisting the foster youth.

It is the Committee's intent to support foster youth having notice of and greater involvement in the court decisions that affect their futures. Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Human Services to arrange for transportation of the child to court instead of requiring that the Department of Human Services provide transportation to court for the child; and



- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style, including changing the effective date from July 1, 2007, to upon approval.

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. 1162, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1162, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

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


Suzanne Chun Oakland

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 1162	Committee Referral: HSP, JDL	Date: 2-8-07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> 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