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# 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 in foster care unless prohibited by  
2 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 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 on motion of the guardian ad litem, to the department  
6           of education, department of human services, or department of  
7           health to ensure adherence to the guiding principles enumerated  
8           in subsection (a)."

9           SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Foster Children; Guiding Principles

**Description:**

Establishes guiding principles for foster children. (SD1)

