

JAN 19 2007

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 and healthy:

11 (A) Food and clothing;

12 (B) Medical, dental and orthodontic, and corrective
13 vision care; and

14 (C) Mental health services;

15 (3) Have supervised in-person contact and telephone or
16 mail correspondence with the child's parents and



1 siblings while in foster care unless prohibited by
2 court order;

3 (4) Following adoption, have supervised in-person contact
4 and telephone or mail correspondence with the child's
5 parents and siblings unless prohibited by the adoption
6 decree;

7 (5) Have direct contact with a social worker, guardian ad
8 litem, and probation officer;

9 (6) Have the right to have their own religious beliefs and
10 the right to refuse to attend any religious activities
11 and services;

12 (7) Have a personal bank account and manage their personal
13 income, consistent with the child's age and
14 development unless prohibited due to safety or health
15 concerns;

16 (8) Have the right to attend school and participate in
17 appropriate extracurricular activities, and, if a
18 child is moved during a school year, the right to
19 complete the school year at the same school, if
20 practicable;

21 (9) Have life skills training and a transition plan
22 starting at age twelve to provide adequate



1 transitioning for children aging out of the foster
 2 care system. The department shall provide written
 3 information to all foster children twelve years or
 4 older and their foster parents about available
 5 independent living programs, including available
 6 foster youth organizations, transitional planning
 7 services, and independent living case management
 8 programs.

9 (b) The family court may issue any necessary orders, sua
 10 sponte or on motion of the guardian ad litem, to the department
 11 of education to ensure that the rights enumerated in subsection
 12 (a) are upheld."

13 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15 INTRODUCED BY: Theranne Chun Caliland
Rosely de Baka
Chad Furumaga
J. Alan Gish
Will Ezyro



Report Title:

Foster Children; Guiding Principles

Description:

Establishes guiding principles for foster children.

