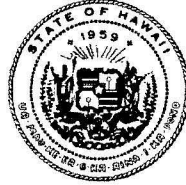


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January 24, 2008

**LATE TESTIMONY**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2051 - RELATING TO EDUCATION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Hearing: January 24, 2008, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H. B. 2051 is to allow children who enter foster care pursuant to chapter 587, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to remain in the school they were attending at the time they entered foster care.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The continuation in a familiar school setting can provide some constancy and stability for children when other aspects of their lives are changing due to placement into foster care.

The Department would suggest some changes to the proposed bill for clarity, as follows:

- 1) Revise the proposed definitions to read as follows:

"Foster child" or "child in foster care" means a child placed in the foster custody or permanent custody of the department of human services pursuant to chapter 587."

"School of origin" means the school that a child attended at the time the child was placed into the foster custody or permanent custody of the department of human services, pursuant to chapter 587."

- 2) The process in proposed section 302-A-B for determining which school the child in foster care is to attend should include consultation with the Department of Human Services and the child's guardian ad litem, and when needed, the Family Court.

- 3) Section 302A-C(1) only provides for transportation to school, a provision for transportation back to the foster home should also be included.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.