

testimony

From: Twylah Evans [twylah@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 6:20 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony Related to Child Protection

February 24, 2008

To: Senator Colleen Hanabusa, Chairwoman
And members of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Twylah Evans

RE: SB2730 SD1 Relating to Child Protection

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
10:00am in conference room 016.

Chairwoman Hanabusa and members of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Committee, my name is Twylah Evans and I am a student at Honolulu Community College. I am testifying in support of SB2370 SD1 Relating to Child Protection.

I feel that if children are taken away from their natural parents for whatever reason, if suitable grandparents are available to take the children, they should be given preference. When I was younger my brother and me were taken away from my mother and taken straight to a foster home. My grandmother was not even notified until we were placed. Social workers gave her a hard time to get us placed with her because of her age.

While we were waiting to be placed with me grandmother, the foster mother we were placed with got mad at my brother for vomiting. She had given him regular milk even though I told her it made him sick. She became so angry with him that she threw against the wall and then she threw my two year old brother over her stair case. He was unresponsive for hours. I told my mother what happened and we were picked up by the Social worker immediately. We had to go through court battles etc. She was arrested and so on. This all could have been avoided if we were placed with my grandmother from the beginning.

Again I urge you to support SB2370 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Twylah Evans
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