

February 09, 2009

LATE
Testimony

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services (HUS)

FROM: Carol Morimoto, LSW
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Honolulu, HI 96822

SUBJECT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
H.B. 912 RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Hearing: Monday, February 09, 2009
08:15 a.m.
Conference Room 329, Hawai'i State Capitol

Dear Chairman Mizuno,

I strongly support HB 912. I am a licensed social worker in Hawai'i and have been working in the field for 15 years. I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how important it is to a child's well-being to remain in situations that are familiar to them and that are providing a safe and stable environment. Many times, these children are already dealing with loss and separation so to take them out of a home that is meeting their needs can further disrupt their sense of security and belonging.

The passing of this bill will allow children who need to be cared for outside of the family home the opportunity to be cared for by those they already have a connection with. This bill will greatly benefit not only Hawai'i's child welfare system but even more importantly, the children, families and communities that surround us.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB 912.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.