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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOSTER YOUTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. This legislature finds that foster youth lack  
2 stable and consistent relationships with positive adult role  
3 models. These relationships are critical to the lives and well-  
4 being of foster youth and have been found essential to:

- 5           (1) Building the self-esteem of foster youth;  
6           (2) Teaching healthy forms of communication;  
7           (3) Fostering a sense of community and belonging; and  
8           (4) Improving school attendance and reducing attrition.

9           The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide  
10 mentorship program for foster youth to enrich their lives and  
11 improve their opportunity for future success.

12           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
14 and to read as follows:

15           "§346-       Hawaii foster youth mentorship program;  
16 established. (a) There is established within the department of  
17 human services, the Hawaii foster youth mentorship program. The  
18 department shall establish and administer the program to:



- 1        (1) Serve foster youth from ages seven to eighteen;
- 2        (2) Recruit and coordinate adult members of the community
- 3                as mentors; and
- 4        (3) Facilitate consistent, meaningful, and long-term
- 5                interaction between adult mentors and foster youth by
- 6                establishing program guidelines for mentors.

7        (b) The department shall partner with the department of  
8 education; interested schools; and appropriate public,  
9 nonprofit, and private agencies, to effectuate the purposes of  
10 this section.

11        (c) The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter  
12 91, to effectuate the purposes of this section."

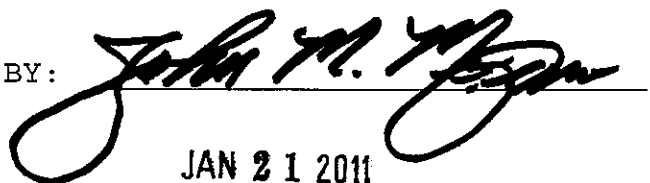
13        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general fund  
14 of the State the sum of                or so much as may be necessary for  
15 fiscal year 2011-2012.

16        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 human services for the purposes of this Act.

18        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 21 2011



**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Foster Youth; Mentorship

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii foster youth mentorship program in the Department of Human Services to promote the well-being of foster youth.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

