

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2011

RE: S.B. No. 1109  
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 1109 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FORMER FOSTER YOUTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services to:

- (1) Automatically enroll former foster youth in an appropriate medical assistance program; and
- (2) Develop a program to assist former foster youth maintain continued medical care coverage.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services; Epic 'Ohana, Inc.; Hawaii Youth Services Network; Hawaii Family Forum; Family Programs Hawai'i; Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the transition from foster care to adulthood is a very difficult path for many former foster care individuals. Children in the foster care system have social workers to help them navigate health and mental health systems while they are in foster care. However, children who age out of the foster care system often lack support and guidance from caring adults. Many former foster youth may be unaware of the annual medical care renewal application.



Your Committee further finds that medical coverage is something most parents would consider a necessity for their children. Accordingly, the Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, requires plans and issuers that offer dependent coverage to make the coverage available until a child reaches the age of twenty-six. Your Committee notes that foster youth are wards of the State and therefore should be provided with the same basic necessities, such as medical coverage, that parents consider essential for their own children.

Your Committee has heard the concerns about the automatic re-enrollment provisions contained in this measure. Your Committee notes that under Hawaii's Medicaid State Plan, when former foster youth reach the age of majority and have no children, they are considered childless adults subject to annual eligibility renewal.

Your Committee has also heard the concern that the Affordable Care Act establishes a new mandatory eligibility category under Medicaid for individuals under age twenty-six. Your Committee notes that this new category includes former foster children. Your Committee believes these concerns merit further discussion by your Committee on Ways and Means.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Extending to twenty-six the age until which the Department of Human Services is required to automatically re-enroll foster youth in a medical assistance program;
- (2) Extending to twenty-six the age until which the Department of Human Services is required to develop a program to help foster youth maintain continuing medical care coverage; and
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to allow for further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1109, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1109, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services,

*Suzanne Chun Oakland*

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1109</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HMS, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/11/11</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)				✓
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report   Clerk's Office   Drafting Agency   Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes