

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalih Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
- Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1110 RELATING TO FOSTER YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, supports SB 1110 Relating to Foster Youth.

Thirty percent (30%) of youth who age out of foster care at age 18 become homeless before 21.

Some of these youth have not graduated from high school by the time they leave care. They lack the skills to obtain employment that pays enough to cover the high cost of Hawaii's housing. They need assistance in locating affordable housing, negotiating with landlords, and managing their budgets. Many landlords are reluctant to rent to young people without a credit history.

A program that assists youth ages 18-21 to find and retain housing would reduce homelessness in this vulnerable population and help youth to learn and practice key skills of adult independent living.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

Senate Bill 1110

Submitted by: Alex J. Logan, Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

P.O. Box 390-302 Keauhou, HI 96739

Hearing Date: February 10, 2011

Testimony in Support:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1110 requiring the Department of Human Services to establish and administer a program to assist former foster youth with housing options. I have the opportunity to work with current and former foster youth through the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition. Too many times have we encountered youth that have formerly been under the state's protection and are now currently homeless. I support the development of a program such as this one to assist as many former foster youth as possible in living in a safe and secure environment.

The only recommendation that I would propose to the department is the utilization of "Shaka" an online information system for foster youth that is currently being developed. Many of the components of this bill such as the registry, needed documentation and housing options could be uploaded to this online system once it has been activated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex J. Logan, Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition

hawaii family forum

Email to: HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 10, 2011 @1:45 p.m.
Conference Room # 016

DATE: February 1, 2011

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Support for SB 1109 Relating to Former Foster Youth
Support for SB 1110 Relating to Foster Youth

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I am Allen Cardines, representing the Hawaii Family Forum. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations.

Hawaii Family Forum has worked very closely with HOPE In the Name of Christ (INC) foster care and adoption agency which has a contract with the Department of Human Services to recruit, train, and support adoptive parents for Hawaii's 'difficult to place' foster children.

This bill addresses children that have been abused, neglected and/or abandoned by their birth parents, the very people who are supposed to protect them. Their birth parents parental rights had to be terminated so they would have a chance at a safe and happy life and some of them have been in more foster homes than anyone cares to count for more years than any child should ever endure. Currently they live in temporary foster homes, waking up every day knowing that one day they will age out of the system and be left without benefits, including healthcare.

These children are usually older and have special needs and challenging behaviors because of the trauma they have been through in their short lives. Because of this, we agree that increasing support for those who are older than 21 is vital. Given the start these kids have had in life, many need a little extra time to get their lives together.

Please support these changes and eliminate this inequity, promoting adoption parity by extending these benefits to foster kids blessed to find forever adoptive families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Lynch
MSW Student: University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Committee on Human Services
10 February 2011 1:45pm
Conference Room 016
SB1110

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1110, Relating to Foster Youth

Dear, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and Human Service Committee members,

The purpose of SB1110 is to connect former foster children with a resource that will help them find and get situated with housing. I support this bill because this is a service that this population of former foster youth is in need of.

When children age out of the foster care system (as may be the case for some of the former foster children served by this program), some of them end up homeless because they do not have a family or home to return to. This bill can help reduce that problem. There are former foster children who have spent the greater part of their lives within the foster care system, and may have lost all contact with their biological families, and have not found other people to fill that void, people that would have helped them with their housing situation.

The rate of homelessness may be high among former foster children because the system does not prepare them to live on their own. Many children that age out of the foster care system have no source of income and no adult to turn to for guidance. This program can offer that guidance some may be lacking at this time.

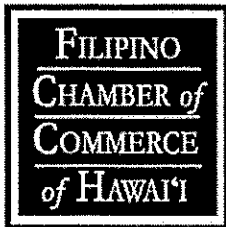
Moving out on one's own can be a challenging experience for any young adult in general, and in some cases even more so for former foster children who have to face these challenges without familial support.

February 8, 2011

I Jocelyn Galase wish to submit testimony regarding Senate bill 1110. I feel that the passing of this bill would be tremendous. Housing assistance and resources is one of the most important and in demand needs among former foster youth. Many end up homeless or go back to their biological families upon aging out. I believe if there is a housing assistance program it would reduce the number of homeless youth and youth who are forced to be re-exposed to an abusive home environment. This would also be a psychological relief on former foster youth which will enable them to see things clearer and start setting and accomplishing short and long term goals. Providing Former Foster Youth with housing resources upon aging out would be very beneficial.

Thank You,

Jocelyn L.Y Galase



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FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

Promoting Hawaii's Business Community since 1954

February 8, 2011

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1360 – HMS – 2/10/11 1:45 p.m. Rm 016

Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce (FCCH) **strongly supports SB1360**, which requires substitute caregivers in Community Care Foster Family Homes (foster homes) with 3 clients to be either Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) or Nurse Aides (NAs).

As over 90% of foster home operators are of Filipino descent, SB1360 and its companion bill in the House HB739 are **the Chamber's #1 priority** for the 2011 legislative session. We will defer to those in the industry to point out the minor differences between a CNA and an NA. Our testimony focuses on: (1) the barriers for NAs of Filipino descent in becoming CNAs; and (2) the increase cost of doing business as a result of the CNA requirement.

First, the Chamber believes numerous barriers continue to exist that places Filipinos at a disadvantage in maintaining a CNA license. The cost to recertify as a CNA can cost up to \$750 every two years to take a 24-hour examination in addition to a \$50 registration cost. NAs do not face similar costs. The 24-hour examination is very daunting for many NAs, most of whom are Filipinos speak English as a second language. Many NAs, while skilled, experienced, and well trained in what they do, become very nervous with the thought of a 24-hour exam that is administered in a language that is not their own. As such, the CNA requirement disproportionately disadvantages Filipinos in the industry with no proven improvement in the quality of care or client safety.

Second, foster homes cannot afford to pay rates CNAs demand. Foster homes receive Medicaid reimbursement of approximately \$1,800-\$2,500 per month per client for nursing home level services. Similar services in a nursing home would cost at least \$7,000 per month per client. Thus, care in foster homes saves 65-75% of the cost of care in a full-service nursing home.

Although this cost saving is great for Medicaid, foster home operators struggle on basic expenses like making their mortgage payments and obtaining medical insurance for themselves. By requiring a CNA and not an NA substitute, operators are forced to dig even deeper. Foster home operators are well familiar with the current economic situation and the State's fiscal crisis, and appreciate that everyone must live with less. However, reimbursement rates have not been increased for many years, and operators have patiently refrained from asking otherwise.

We understand that client safety and quality of care is the overriding priority. Based on our experience working with care homes and foster homes for over 3 decades, however, there is no measurable improvement in the quality of care since the regulation of CNAs began in 2008 that would justify having exclusively CNAs as substitutes.

In summary, FCCH reiterates its **strong support of SB1360** requires substitute caregivers in foster homes to be either CNAs or Nurse Aides NAs.

Very truly yours,

Filipino Chamber of Commerce
By: Bryan P. Andaya