

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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April 14, 2011

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 143 - ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE MY SAFE DRAWER COMPUTER APPLICATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH WHO ARE TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**

Hearing: Thursday, April 14, 2011; 10:00a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.C.R. 143 is to encourage the Department of Human Services to explore computer applications for foster youth who are transitioning from the foster caser system.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates and supports the intent of this proposed resolution to facilitate a youth's access to important documents. However, since the Department is already incorporating this feature into SHAKA, the enhanced children's protective services database, we feel this resolution is not necessary at this time.

SHAKA's FosterAloha youth portal for current and former foster youth is envisioned as a secure, password-protected web-based application that will be a vital and interactive link between the youth and the Department designed to provide information and support and to facilitate a transition to successful independence as an

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adult. Through FosterAloha, youth will have access to court orders, medical history and other documents provided by the Department, as well as the ability to upload their own documents, complete applications for higher education benefits, contact the assigned worker, and receive messages from the Department. FosterAloha will also contain information about and links to other programs and benefits provided by the Department other youth serving organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Representative John Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**RE: SCR 143 – ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE MY SAFE DRAWER COMPUTER
APPLICATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH WHO ARE TRANSITIONING OUT OF
THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SCR 143, encouraging the Department of Human Services to consider implementing the My Safe Drawer computer application for foster youth. CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc. (CGI) fully supports this Resolution.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program, CGI is making the My Safe Drawer application available free of charge to the State of Hawaii, as well as other public and private organizations around the world. The My Safe Drawer web portal application was developed by CGI to provide foster youth emancipating from foster care programs a safe, secure, and centralized storage repository for vital records and contacts.

As young people transition from foster care into adulthood, they frequently leave care with little more than paper copies of essential personal information. In many cases, these emancipating youth do not have a permanent living arrangement established, and, in moving from place to place, can easily lose their vital documents. When applying for a job, completing a college application, or receiving medical care, they often no longer have their necessary information.

My Safe Drawer provides an easy-to-use, on-line solution for youth to:

- Create address book entries for their personal and professional contacts
- Upload and store scanned images of vital records (e.g. birth certificate, academic records, social security card, etc.)
- Store important documents such as resumes, reference letters, and correspondence.
- Access on-line links to relevant services and information

CGI successfully launched My Safe Drawer in Santa Clara County, California, and is also making it available at no charge to the State of Hawaii as part of our commitment to the community. We look forward to working in partnership with the Department of Human Services and Members of the Committee to bring this needed resource to our emancipating foster youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Bill Kern
Director – Hawaii Branch Office
CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.