



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

HEARING: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8:30 am
Conference Room 329

FROM: Linda Santos
Family Programs Hawaii

RE: HB 2292

As the President and CEO for Family Programs Hawaii, I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

We strongly support House Bill 2292 which directs the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll foster youth who age out of the Hawaii CPS system into an appropriate medical assistance program and automatically re-enroll these foster youth until they reach age twenty-six. Currently, DHS and contracted agencies who work with these youth are able to do the initial enrollment. However, after the youth are out of care, re-enrollment often does not occur as the youths are not always in stable living situations. Further assistance by DHS will help smooth our foster youths' transition to adulthood while allowing them to maintain their health coverage.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on this important issue.