

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2013

RE: S.B. No. 1340  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 1340 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FOSTER CARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow former foster care youths who are attending an institution of higher education as full-time students to stay in the foster care system until the age of twenty-three.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition and three individuals. Testimony in opposition of this measure was submitted by the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that foster youth who are evicted at age eighteen often do not have the financial, emotional, or housing support from their biological family. A 2001 study to identify the transition needs of foster youth in Oahu and East Hawaii found that twenty percent of foster youth aged eighteen to twenty-four were homeless within a year and that an additional forty-three percent were at risk of becoming homeless.

Your Committee further finds that due to the unfortunate nature of their situation, many former foster youths who are attending an institution of higher education find it difficult to adjust and transition to life after being in the foster care system because they often lack a support system. Without family



support or the resources to provide for the basic necessities in life, many of these former foster youths may not have the financial means to attend school. There is a need to support these former foster youths to ensure their success and transition into society and that providing foster care support to these former foster youths while attending school would enable them to focus on academic success and career development instead of worrying about housing, food, and other basic needs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting language from S.B. No. 1104 (Regular Session of 2013), which establishes the young adult voluntary foster care program to care for and supervise eligible foster youth until their twenty-first birthdays, and further amending the measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 1340, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1340, 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, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1340	HMS, WAM	2/12/13		
<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)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N.				✓
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
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