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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB986 on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 9:33:17 AM

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HB986

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Chantrill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the cost of living increase yearly, our assistance for the foster children has not increased for years. As the children grow, so is their expense. We strongly suggest to increase the benefit for caring of the foster children.

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Bill: HB 986 HD1 – Relating to Foster Care Services

TO: Senator Ige, Chair  
Senator Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways & Means



HEARING: Friday, March 22, 2013  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. **I Strongly Support this bill**

My name is Mike Curtis and I am the current Board Chair for Family Programs Hawaii (FPH). We are a non-profit agency that provides services to prevent children from entering foster care; support children and families involved in the foster care system; and assist youth transitioning out of care.

What has happened to our foster children is not their fault, but they often pay the highest price for our social ills. More than anyone else in our society, it is our children who pay the price for problems such as adult joblessness or adult drug addiction or adult mental illness. We all recognize that we have a responsibility to these children, and the state of Hawaii has made great progress in recent years in recruiting and training caring, capable foster parents, so these children will have stable, safe places to stay in times of crisis.

However, State foster board reimbursement rates have not been increased for 22 years and we all know that during the last 22 years, the price of food, and diapers, and toys, and preschool, and rent, and electricity, and school supplies and all of the many, many items that our families purchase every day have soared.

I urge you to support us in our call to provide these additional resources to help these families and kids. My belief is that our island communities will reap the rewards of our investment many times over, in the form of better-integrated, productive citizens on the one hand, and reduced crime, public assistance and other societal costs on the other.

Sincerely,

Mike Curtis  
Board Chair  
Family Programs Hawaii