



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawaii*

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

By

R. Mark Browning  
Deputy Chief Judge/Senior Judge  
Family Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 1340, S.D.1, Relating to Foster Care

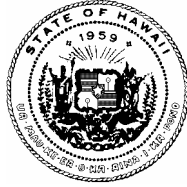
**Purpose:** Establishes the young adult voluntary foster care program.

### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports this bill.

We have long been aware of the barriers that youth face when they are in foster custody at the time they turn 18 years old. All of us who are parents of young adults know too well that there are barriers enough in this day and age even for children who have stable homes. To “age-out” without the benefit of a stable and committed loving family leads to high rates of homelessness and unemployment. We are hopeful that this bill will ease the journey for the youth who are willing and able to make use of it. We are also hopeful that the entire child protective network in the community can double their efforts to ensure that all youth will reach the threshold eligibility requirements at least by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 20, 2013

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1340, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO FOSTER CARE**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 9:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 1340, S.D. 1, is to establish a statutory basis for the extension of foster care services to age twenty-one years for young adults formerly in foster care with the State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services strongly supports the S.D. 1 of S.B. 1340 which contains the language of Administration bill S.B. 1104. This bill proposes to add a new part to chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to care for and supervise eligible foster youth until their twenty-first birthday. Chapter 346-A will establish a new program called the young adult voluntary foster care program. The young adult voluntary foster care program will support former foster youth in achieving permanency in the transition to adulthood and in becoming independent and self-sufficient by extending voluntary foster care to age twenty-one.

Establishing this new program will require general funds of \$556,433 for HMS 301 (Child Protective Services) and \$426,610 for HMS 303 (Child Protective Services Payments) and federal funds of \$401,133 for HMS 301 and \$551,079 for HMS 303. The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) allows states to claim federal reimbursement for the costs of caring for and supervising title IV-E eligible foster youth until their twenty-first birthday .

The funds requested are based on calculations prepared with support from consultants who have worked with other states. Projections for the initial year total \$983,043 of new state dollars to support 135 young adults with foster care maintenance, independent living and case management services. A gradual increase is expected due to the increase in participants, with the cost of this program leveling off in the fifth year at \$1,949,444 new state dollars to support 175 young adults.

These funds will help to ensure that young adults have the supports they need at a critical point of transition: when they are seeking to complete secondary education; navigate admissions processes and complete postsecondary education or vocational training; and establish themselves in the workforce and in adult relationships. Having the supports in place to complete these transition tasks will successfully lay the foundation for long-term positive outcomes for youth leaving foster care and result in a substantial cost savings in future government services.

Studies have shown that young people who continue to receive services until age twenty-one have better outcomes in several areas including educational achievement and employment, thereby contributing to a more stable workforce and increased lifetime earnings. Increased support for transitioning youth will facilitate

the youth's continued development and preparation for successful independence such as decreases in homelessness, dependency on public welfare benefits, and drug dependency, and incarceration.

This legislation will extend foster care services for young adults in foster care with the DHS to age twenty-one. This bill would statutorily extend services such as independent living services, case planning, permanency planning, placement and judicial oversight for former foster youth up to age twenty-one. For the youth in foster care who have not been able to be reunified with their family, adopted or obtain a legal guardian by age eighteen and are not ready to be on their own, extended care can provide safe and stable housing and prevent homelessness for these young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAI'I

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TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
9:45 am  
Conference Room 211

FROM: Judith Wilhoite  
Family Programs Hawai'i

RE: SB 1340 - Related to the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Act

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's It Takes An `Ohana (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver, formerly referred to as foster parent. I strongly support this bill.

SB 1340 is a very well crafted bill and explains why this change needs to be made. I would just like to add the following table that gives a clear view of outcomes for young people formerly in foster care compared to the general population of young people.

Outcome	Foster Care	General
No high school diploma or GED	24.4%	7.3%
Not employed	52%	24.5%
Average income from employment	\$12,064	\$20,349
Have health insurance	57%	78%
Males who have been arrested	81.2%	17.4%
Females who have been pregnant	77%	40.4%

*Courtney, et al. (2010)*

Allowing foster youth to continue to receive support until 21 will help bring better outcomes for our foster youth and thus for all of us. In fact, there is research that shows the financial benefits of extending foster care – both for the individual youth and for society – outweigh costs to government by a factor of approximately 2 to 1.

I applaud this DHS initiative and strongly support this bill to set the requirements needed to extend the foster care to 21.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Support Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihi Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
REAL  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

February 18, 2013

To: Senator David Ige, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

## Testimony in Support of SB 1340 SD1 Relating to Foster Care

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1340 SD1 Relating to Foster Care.

Young people who age out of foster care at age 18 face significant challenges. The Midwest Evaluation of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth showed that by age 24:

- 40% of young people had been homeless since leaving foster care;
- ¼ did not have a high school diploma (compared to 7.35 of peers who did not experience foster care);
- Half were unemployed (twice as high as the general young adult population);
- 81% of males had been arrested (compared to 17% of all young adults);

Outcomes are much better for young people who stay in care to age 21 (from Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative Issue Brief - :

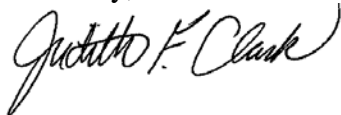
- Those required to leave care at age 18 were 2.7 times more likely to have been homeless;
- Remaining in care more than doubled the odds that young people would be working or in school at age 19;
- Those remaining in care were twice as likely to have completed at least one year of college by age 21;
- Young women remaining in care experienced a 38% reduction in the incidence of pregnancy before age 20;
- Those remaining in care were more likely to access independent living services.

Extending foster care to age 21 has financial benefits for both the young adult and society. Increasing opportunities to complete college and vocational programs results in higher earning potential over a lifetime. Extended foster care decreases costs to society from early child bearing as teen mothers are 2.2 times more likely to have a child placed in foster care than those who delay child bearing until age 20 or 21.

Most young people are not prepared to take on all of the responsibilities of adult living at age 18. Our youth in foster care deserve this support in making successful transitions to adulthood.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director