

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2878
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred S.B. No. 2878, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to promote the welfare of foster youth and former foster youth.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Extends the deadline for former foster youth to apply for financial assistance for higher education costs from age twenty-two to age twenty-six;
- (2) Clarifies that financial assistance available to Hawaii's former foster youth is for related higher education costs and not specifically limited to room and board costs;
- (3) Clarifies eligibility and program requirements for the ongoing implementation of the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program; and
- (4) Repeals existing statutory language that requires the Department of Human Services to submit annual reports to the Legislature regarding the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program.



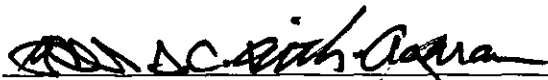
Your Committees received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Family Programs Hawaii, Hale Kipa, EPIC Ohana, Inc., and thirteen individuals.

Readiness for higher education may come at a later time than twenty-two years of age for many former foster youth. Your Committees find that the change in application time provided in this measure will increase the access to education for those individuals. Your Committees also find that the changes to the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program in this measure will provide needed clarification and greater consistency regarding eligibility for program services for former foster youth.

Your Committees note that the Department of Human Services has indicated that this measure's extension of the application deadline for higher education assistance will not increase costs, because youth may use federal funds for higher education from the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Program from ages eighteen to twenty-one years, while youth may use the higher education stipends cover from ages twenty-two to twenty-six years.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Labor that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2878, S.D. 1, and recommend that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Ways and Means
and Judiciary and Labor,



GILBERT S.C. KEITH-ÁGARAN, Chair

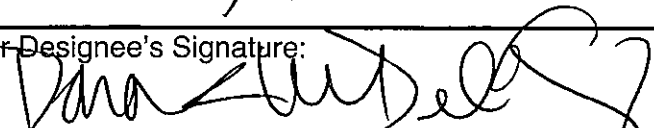


JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2878, SD1	HMS, WAM/SDL	8/24/16		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene				/
INOUE, Lorraine R.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn	/			
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	10			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

