



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2879, Relating to Foster Children

Purpose: Provides amendments to the HRS Chapter 587A, the Child Protective Act.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on this bill. However, we question the need to change the term “independent living” to “successful adulthood” at page 14, lines 2 and 6 and page 15, lines 6 and 10. The term “independent living” has become a term of art. It is widely used to denote a set of skills that encompasses a wide range of proficiencies in medical, educational, vocational, financial, and social self-care. This term is consistently used by federal and state entities and private not-for-profit funders and foundations. This unnecessary change could cause confusion in programming and funding.

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