



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

By

R. Mark Browning

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2503, Relating to Foster Boarding Homes.

Purpose: Requires DHS to distribute confidential lists of foster boarding homes in the community to the respective chiefs of police. Requires DHS to conduct interviews of the neighbors of persons and organizations seeking their initial certificate of approval to operate and maintain a foster boarding home.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary respectfully opposes passage of this bill. Requiring canvassing neighbors and businesses within 100 feet of a prospective foster home and releasing a list of foster homes with valid certificates of approval to the police departments are simply not necessary for community safety.

Foster homes house and protect abused and neglected children. The laws already have safeguards in place through the requirement of valid certificates of approval which are to be reviewed frequently. This bill appears to subject potential and existing foster parents and foster children to additional scrutiny which may impinge on their privacy rights. This may, in turn, discourage new potential foster homes from applying and discourage existing foster homes from re-applying for the valid certification process. Given the great need for more foster homes and our state's responsibility to protect abused and neglected children, we should be directing our



House Bill No. 2503, Relating to Foster Boarding Homes
House Committee on Human Services
Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

resources to encouraging rather than discouraging foster homes to provide our foster children with the safety and nurturance they deserve.

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