



## *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.