

FEB 16 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A JOINT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR
TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY THE FEASIBILITY AND BENEFITS OF
EXTENDING FOSTER CARE UP TO THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE.

1 WHEREAS, the transition from foster care to adulthood is a
2 very difficult path for many former foster care individuals and
3 without the continuation of support services they received from
4 foster parents and state programs when they were younger, many
5 of these young adults face low odds for a successful life of
6 achievement as an adult; and
7

8 WHEREAS, nationally, most young people who age out of
9 foster care fare poorly compared to other young people in the
10 general population; and
11

12 WHEREAS, according to the longitudinal Midwest Evaluation
13 of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (Midwest
14 Evaluation), of the young adults surveyed nearly one quarter of
15 those who age out of foster care do not earn a high school
16 diploma; fifty-two percent were unemployed at age twenty-three
17 or twenty-four; forty-two percent of males who aged out of
18 foster care had been arrested; and two-thirds of the females who
19 aged out of foster care had been pregnant since leaving foster
20 care; and
21

22 WHEREAS, according to the Midwest Evaluation, young people
23 who remained in foster care until the age of twenty-one fared
24 far better than those who had to leave foster care at age
25 eighteen; young people who remained in foster care until the age
26 of twenty-one were 2.7 times less likely to experience
27 homelessness and twice as many of these young adults had
28 completed at least one year of college; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the federal Fostering Connections to Success and
31 Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law No. 110-351) gives
32 the states the option of extending eligibility of the Title IV-E



1 Independent Living Program to young people up to the age of
2 twenty-one on a voluntary basis and provided that they meet
3 various requirements; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the expertise of multiple stakeholders is crucial
6 to consider the potential design of the extension of foster care
7 to age twenty-one, the costs to the State, and the benefits to
8 the State; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
13 Human Services is request to convene a joint public and private
14 sector task force to examine the feasibility and benefits of
15 extending foster care to the age of twenty-one; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider and
18 identify:
19

- 20 (1) The requirements of the federal Fostering Connections
21 to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008;
22
23 (2) The supportive programs and policies that could best
24 achieve desired results of young people, including how
25 to:
26
27 (A) Build on support and services already in place
28 for young people currently in and aging out of
29 foster care;
30
31 (B) Structure support and services that are appealing
32 and appropriate for young adults;
33
34 (C) Ensure that permanency remains at the forefront
35 of case management; and
36
37 (D) Structure judicial oversight in a way that best
38 supports and engages young adults; and
39
40 (3) Key design features, such as:
41
42 (A) Eligibility for extended foster care;
43



- 1 (B) Appropriate case management requirements and
- 2 method of delivery;
- 3
- 4 (C) Placement options; and
- 5
- 6 (D) The net fiscal impacts of design decisions; and
- 7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate President and the
 9 Speaker of the House of Representatives are requested to select
 10 members of the task force to include but not be limited to:

- 11
- 12 (1) Representatives of the executive, legislative, and
- 13 judiciary branches of state government in the areas of
- 14 education, workforce development, health and mental
- 15 health, juvenile justice, and housing;
- 16
- 17 (2) Legal advocates;
- 18
- 19 (3) Representatives of independent living and youth
- 20 development program providers, resource caregivers,
- 21 guardians, and adoptive parents; and
- 22
- 23 (4) Alumni and youth currently in foster care; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 26 submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the
 27 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 28 the Regular Session of 2013; and

29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
 32 Administrative Director of the Judiciary, Director of Human
 33 Services, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Director
 34 of Health, and Superintendent of Education.

35
 36
 37

OFFERED BY: Erzanne Chun Calalang

Nichelle Lidari
Arnold Y. Ig
Michelle

Rosalyn de Bel
Carol Johnson
J

