



*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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2350, Relating to Foster Children

**Purpose:** Provides amendments to 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.