

JAN 24 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE COMMUNITIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING
GRANDCHILDREN BY SUPPORTING POLICIES AND SERVICES THAT ARE
CONDUCTIVE TO THAT FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau,
2 there was an over thirty per cent increase in the number of
3 children under age eighteen years living in grandparent-headed
4 households in Hawaii between 1990 and 2000; and

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6 WHEREAS, of the 14,029 grandparents in Hawaii who report
7 that they are responsible for their resident grandchildren, over
8 one-fifth also report that the grandchildren's parents do not
9 live in the household; and

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11 WHEREAS, the reasons that grandparents take the role of
12 primary caregivers from their children often reflect broader
13 social issues such as, divorce, substance abuse, incarceration,
14 mental illness, and neglect or abuse of the grandchildren; and

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16 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren report more
17 anxiety, depression, and physical health problems than their
18 non-caregiving peers; and

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20 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents often report feeling guilt
21 or shame resulting from the situations that lead to their
22 acquiring custody of their grandchildren; and

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24 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents often spend funds they
25 saved for retirement to care for their grandchildren instead;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents need accurate and
29 accessible information on a myriad of issues including legal aid
30 for custody concerns, financial assistance, counseling, respite



1 care, housing, health care, transportation, and education
2 regarding parenting for a second time; and

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4 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren should be
5 treated by the childcare and eldercare communities with dignity,
6 respect, and recognition equal to parents; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the childcare and
11 eldercare communities are urged to acknowledge the unique
12 circumstances of grandparents raising grandchildren by
13 supporting policies and services that are conducive to that
14 familial relationship; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
18 the Director of Human Services, the Superintendent of Education,
19 the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing
20 Administration, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing
21 Finance and Development Administration, the Executive Director
22 of the Hawaii County Office of Aging, the Chair of the Maui
23 Council on Aging; the Executive Director of the City and County
24 of Honolulu, Elderly Affairs Division; the County Executive on
25 Aging of the Kauai County Office on Elderly Affairs; the
26 Executive Directors of Hawaii Family Services, Good Beginnings
27 Alliance, Hawaii Intergenerational Network, AARP Hawaii, the
28 Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center; and the Chairpersons of
29 Na Tutu, Tutus in Control, and the Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition.

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OFFERED BY: *Elizabeth Chun Oakland*
[Signature]
Rossy de Goben



- 1 (7) Freedom from intimidation and coercion;
- 2
- 3 (8) Protection against slave labor and other unfair labor
- 4 practices;
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- 6 (9) Protection from maltreatment; and
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- 8 (10) A clean environment; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor should advocate
 11 for and take appropriate legislative measures to protect
 12 children's rights, to help meet children's basic needs and to
 13 expand children's opportunities to reach their potential; now,
 14 therefore,

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 16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
 18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature and
 19 the Governor are urged to respect children's rights when
 20 enacting legislation related to children; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 24 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
 25 Governor.

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 28 OFFERED BY: Joanne Chun Oalland

Chun Fook Oalland
A.S.T.F.
F. K. Oalland

