

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2007

RE: S.R. No. 9

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which
was referred S.R. No. 9 entitled:

"SENATE 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,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the childcare and
eldercare communities to acknowledge the unique circumstances of
grandparents raising grandchildren by supporting policies and
services that are conducive to that familial relationship.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Na Tutu, Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren; and one individual submitted testimony in
support of this measure.

According to the testimony, it is estimated that more than
fourteen thousand grandparents are the primary caregivers for
their grandchildren in Hawaii. The reasons that grandparents
assume responsibility for their grandchildren often reflect
broader social issues such as divorce, substance abuse,
incarceration, mental illness, and neglect or abuse of the
grandchildren. The challenges and responsibilities of raising
grandchildren often place substantial financial and emotional
stress on grandparents. This measure recognizes the contribution
that grandparents make to the lives of their grandchildren and to
the community by assuming these responsibilities and encourages



supportive policies and services to help them in these demanding roles.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 9 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services and
Public Housing,


SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

*Only one measure per Record of Votes