

MAR 13 2008

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONDUCT FAMILY COURT PROCEEDINGS AT THE KAPOLEI COURT COMPLEX WITH THE CONSENT OF THE AFFECTED PARTIES OR UNLESS ONE OF THE PARTIES COMMENCES THE FAMILY COURT PROCEEDING AT THE KAPOLEI COURT COMPLEX.

1           WHEREAS, the current amount of available space in the First  
2 Judicial Circuit for its courts and programs is insufficient to  
3 meet the needs of its courts and programs; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the lack of available space is particularly  
6 challenging during Family Court matters where emotionally  
7 charged parties in child custody and divorce proceedings are  
8 crowded into close quarters or forced to wait in a congested  
9 area outside the courtroom; and  
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11           WHEREAS, in 2005, the Hawaii State Judiciary received the  
12 first of several appropriations to build a new court complex and  
13 juvenile detention facility in Kapolei; and  
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15           WHEREAS, groundbreaking for the construction of the future  
16 10.97 acre Kapolei Court Complex occurred on July 17, 2007; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the tentative completion date for the Kapolei  
19 Court Complex is the end of 2009; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the Kapolei Court Complex is expected to contain  
22 over one hundred thousand square feet and accommodate District,  
23 Family, and Circuit Court functions; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Judiciary has proposed that all  
26 Family Court matters be conducted at the Kapolei Court Complex;  
27 and  
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29           WHEREAS, however, opponents of this proposal state that it  
30 is not fair for residents of areas such as Honolulu, Kakaako,



1 Waikiki, and Waimanalo to commute to Kapolei for their Family  
2 Court proceedings; and  
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4 WHEREAS, it is likely that the commute to the Kapolei Court  
5 Complex will have the greatest detrimental impact on low-income  
6 Family Court parties; and  
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8 WHEREAS, this is due, in part, to the additional  
9 transportation expenses that they will incur for themselves and  
10 their legal counsel, as well as, the logistics of getting back  
11 to work or fulfilling other commitments like picking children up  
12 from school; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the First Judicial Circuit should provide parties  
15 with the option of conducting their Family Court proceedings at  
16 the Kapolei Court Complex or at the existing Family Court  
17 facility; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Judiciary is  
22 requested to conduct Family Court proceedings at the Kapolei  
23 Court Complex with the consent of the affected parties or unless  
24 one of the parties commences the Family Court proceeding at the  
25 Kapolei Court Complex; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the  
29 Hawaii Supreme Court.  
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OFFERED BY:   
by request

