Honolulu, Hawaii

Fe 715, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2707

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2008 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services & Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 2707 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a preference for grandparents for out-of-home placement of children involved in child protective proceedings.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Maui County Executive on Aging, Parents for Righteousness, Tutu and Me, Partners In Development Foundation, Na Tutu, Catholic Charities Hawaii, and several concerned individuals testified in support of this bill. The Executive Office on Aging and Foster Family Programs of Hawaii supported the intent of this measure. The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by replacing its contents with provisions that:

- (1) Expand the scope of preference for out-of-home placement of children to include relatives;
- (2) Define "relative" to include lawe hanai parents or blood-related hanai parents, or hanai parents based on written or oral designation by the child or child's

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blood relatives, who are willing and able to provide support to the child and the family; and

(3) Require DHS to:

- a. Identify all relatives within six months of assuming foster custody of the child; and
- b. Respond to inquiries from relatives with regard to their potential as foster placement.

Your Committee urges all stakeholders to propose a due process procedure, including "paper trail" documentation, that would adequately protect a relative's right to request to participate in the child protective service proceedings regarding the child.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2707, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2707, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

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

MAILE SHIMABUKURO, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 580-08

Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2707	Committee Referral: 45H, TUD	Da	te: February	5, 2008
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L. (C				
2. RHOADS, Karl (VC)			Charles and the Charles and th	
2. Kitoribs, Kari (ve)				
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani				
			Hert Charles I	
4. BELATTI, Della Au				
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III	1		Park State	*
And the second s				
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.	X			
7. GREEN, Josh, M.D.	X		All the second of the second o	
		Programme (Colored Services)		
8. MIZUNO, John	X			
O TOVIOVA I W	./			
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	7			
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.		X		
TOTAL (10)	9		0	0
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				