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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ADOPT, AMEND, OR  
REPEAL RULES IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE HAWAIIAN  
SYSTEM OF HANAI DURING THE LICENSING OF FOSTER PARENTS.

1 WHEREAS, over 50 percent of children in foster care, or  
2 approximately 1,400 children, are of Hawaiian ancestry; and  
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4 WHEREAS, only about one-half of the foster children who are  
5 of Hawaiian ancestry are placed in foster homes that share their  
6 Hawaiian culture; and  
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8 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian communities and families have  
9 expressed concern that cultural needs are not considered as  
10 heavily as they should be in the placement of foster children;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian culture has long embraced the  
14 traditional system of "hanai" which allows a person other than a  
15 child's parent to play a substantial role in the material  
16 support and upbringing of the child; and  
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18 WHEREAS, in many cases, the people raising children of  
19 Hawaiian ancestry in a hanai relationship are the children's  
20 grandparents; and  
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22 WHEREAS, due to age and economic circumstances, many  
23 caregivers in a hanai relationship are unable to satisfy the  
24 Department of Human Services' (DHS) requirements for the  
25 licensing of foster parents, which results in children being  
26 taken into the department's custody; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the State is mandated to protect and preserve the  
29 customs and traditions of Hawaiians pursuant to Article XII,  
30 section 7, of the Hawaii Constitution; now, therefore,  
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
34 of 2009, that DHS is requested to adopt, amend, or repeal rules



1 in accordance with Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to  
2 recognize and respect the Hawaiian culture and system of hanai  
3 during the licensing process for foster parents; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a  
6 report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations,  
7 including proposed legislation, no later than 20 days prior to  
8 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the  
12 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the program  
13 director of Kokua Ohana.

