

FEB 02 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO MAKE APPROPRIATE
EXEMPTIONS FOR GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN TO
REMAIN IN SENIOR HOUSING UNTIL SUITABLE HOUSING IS
OBTAINED.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, multi-generational living is common for
2 cultural, social, and financial reasons; and
3

4 WHEREAS, sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances or
5 family crisis beyond their control, grandparents become
6 caregivers, and in some cases legal guardian, of their
7 grandchildren; and
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9 WHEREAS, according to the American Association of Retired
10 Persons, in 2007, more than fourteen thousand grandparents in
11 Hawaii reported that they are responsible for grandchildren who
12 live with them; and
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14 WHEREAS, because many grandparents are seniors who have
15 limited or fixed incomes, trying to raise a grandchild increases
16 an already challenging financial situation for these
17 grandparents; and
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19 WHEREAS, the cost of raising a child in the western region
20 of the United States, based on 2007 estimates by the United
21 States Department of Agriculture, ranges between \$8,870 and
22 \$18,510 annually; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's housing market is one of the costliest in
25 the nation, providing few options for seniors who often have
26 limited incomes; and
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28 WHEREAS, many seniors look to senior housing programs
29 because the unique restrictions on these programs make such
30 housing more affordable; and
31



S.R. NO. 9

1 WHEREAS, federal and state law both allow housing
 2 authorities to legally exclude families with children from
 3 senior housing programs; and
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5 WHEREAS, consequently, grandparents, as sole or primary
 6 caregivers of a grandchild, must compete with other younger
 7 parents for affordable family housing because children are not
 8 allowed to reside in senior housing; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
 12 that all public and private senior housing agencies are
 13 requested to identify all residents who are sole or primary
 14 caretakers for a grandchild; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each agency is requested to
 17 make appropriate exemptions in policies, procedures, and house
 18 rules to allow seniors who provide sole or primary care for one
 19 or more grandchildren to remain in their rental unit until more
 20 suitable housing is obtained; and
 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the
 24 Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, the
 25 Executive Director of the Office on Aging, the Hawaii Field
 26 Office Director of the United States Department of Housing and
 27 Urban Development, and the Executive Director of the American
 28 Association of Retired Persons.
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