

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE PROVISION OF ORIENTATION AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING TO  
INCREASE THE ABILITY OF STATE AGENCY CASE WORKERS TO  
ADDRESS THE ISSUES FACED BY GRANDPARENTS RAISING  
GRANDCHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, as a result of the work of the Joint Legislative  
2 Committee on Family Caregiving, Act 11, Special Session Laws of  
3 Hawaii 2008, established a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
4 Task Force to assess and report on the needs and issues of  
5 grandparents raising grandchildren; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the final report generated by the Grandparents  
8 Raising Grandchildren Task Force found as a result of a March  
9 2009 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Focus Group that  
10 participants with grandchildren in the custody of Child  
11 Protective Services (CPS) or the Department of Human Services  
12 (DHS) expressed common frustration with DHS case workers because  
13 grandparents did not receive enough information from DHS  
14 workers; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, observations in the March 2009 GRG Focus Group  
17 show that:  
18

- 19 (1) Grandparents have little or no understanding of laws  
20 that drive a CPS case and may misunderstand the role  
21 of a DHS case worker;  
22
- 23 (2) Grandparents raising grandchildren often feel afraid,  
24 intimidated, helpless, and angry;  
25
- 26 (3) Many grandparents raising grandchildren do not seek  
27 help from DHS because they are afraid that "the  
28 system" will remove their grandchildren from their  
29 care;  
30
- 31 (4) Some DHS case workers:



- 1  
2 (A) Do not respect cultural values related to the  
3 sacredness of the grandparent/grandchild  
4 relationship;  
5  
6 (B) Do not respect the senior as the grandparent with  
7 knowledge about the history of the child's  
8 family;  
9  
10 (C) Do not acknowledge a grandparent's right to have  
11 a view of the best interest of the grandchildren;  
12 and  
13  
14 (D) Do not provide the grandparent with emotional  
15 support; rather the grandparents reported  
16 experiencing distress in relations with some  
17 workers; and  
18  
19 (5) Many grandparents do not know about current laws and  
20 subsidies that are designed to help and protect them;  
21 now, therefore,  
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
26 Human Services is urged to provide orientation and additional  
27 training to increase the ability of DHS case workers to address  
28 the issues faced by grandparents who raise grandchildren,  
29 including increasing case workers' awareness about:  
30

- 31 (1) Local cultural beliefs regarding the important roles  
32 of grandparents within the family structure,  
33 especially when grandchildren need care;  
34  
35 (2) What grandparents experience (fear, helplessness, and  
36 anger) when their grandchildren are taken into custody  
37 by Child Protective Services or placed in foster care,  
38 and there are rules for having contacts with their  
39 grandchildren; and  
40  
41 (3) Grandparents' need for clear explanations to  
42 understand guidelines for managing cases involving  
43 children in state custody who need foster care and a  
44 safe permanent home; and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
3 Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no  
4 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011  
5 Regular Session on the initiatives the Department has  
6 implemented to increase the ability of DHS case workers to  
7 understand and address the issues faced by grandparents who  
8 raise grandchildren; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
12 Services, the Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the  
13 County Executive of the City and County of Honolulu Elderly  
14 Affairs Division, the Coordinator for the Department of Health  
15 Foster Care Licensing Unit, and the Administrator of the Social  
16 Services Division of the Department of Human Services.

