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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES GOVERNING PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN TEMPORARY FOSTER CUSTODY WITH KIN OR NON-KIN FOSTER PARENTS.

1           WHEREAS, foster custody places a very emotional and  
2 sometimes traumatic burden on children in the foster care  
3 system; and

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5           WHEREAS, when a child is placed in a foster home, foster  
6 parents generally form a bond with the foster child, yet many  
7 foster children long to seek out their kin; and

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9           WHEREAS, foster care is a very complex issue because many  
10 emotions for everyone are involved, and each situation is  
11 different, making the decision to place a child in a home a  
12 difficult one for social workers; and

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14           WHEREAS, the best interests of a child should be paramount  
15 in determining the placement of a child in foster custody; and

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17           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives' Committee on Human  
18 Services held a public hearing to discuss H.B. No. 1856,  
19 regarding the issue of placing a child with kin or non-kin  
20 foster caregivers; and

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22           WHEREAS, compelling testimony was received with many  
23 viewpoints, all of which were valid and worthy of further  
24 discussion; and

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26           WHEREAS, because many issues remain unresolved and  
27 difficult to determine because of the complexities and unique  
28 circumstances of each child's situation, more discussions with  
29 various stakeholders need to take place; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human  
4 Services (DHS) is requested to convene a working group to  
5 determine the feasibility of implementing procedures governing  
6 placement of children in temporary foster custody with kin or  
7 non-kin foster parents, including the possibility of a committee  
8 to make decisions on a case-by-case basis; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
11 to discuss, among other things:  
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- 13 (1) Defining "attachment" as it pertains to the  
14 relationship between a foster child and a caregiver,  
15 and how attachment can be considered when determining  
16 placement of a child;  
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- 18 (2) Determining circumstances under which siblings may be  
19 separated, and finding solutions to keep siblings  
20 together whenever possible;  
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- 22 (3) Determining the length of time children should remain  
23 in the foster care system and finding solutions to  
24 minimize their time in the system, without  
25 jeopardizing the children's health or welfare; and  
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- 27 (4) Determining whether changes are needed to improve the  
28 present model of foster placement, or whether the  
29 methods of foster placement require further review and  
30 analysis;  
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32 and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to include in  
35 the working group, stakeholders, including but not limited to:  
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- 37 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;  
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- 39 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;  
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- 41 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;  
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- 43 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;  
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- 1 (5) Native Hawaiian groups;
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- 3 (6) Guardians ad litem;
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- 5 (7) Social workers;
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- 7 (8) Foster parents;
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- 9 (9) Foster children;
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- 11 (10) Parents whose children are or have been involved with
- 12 Child Protective Services;
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- 14 (11) Other relatives of children who are or have been
- 15 involved with Child Protective Services;
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- 17 (12) The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii;
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- 19 (13) Na Kupuna Tribunal; and
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- 21 (14) The Hawaii Family Forum;
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23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a  
26 report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the  
27 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
31 Services, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Foster Parent  
32 Association, the President of the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition,  
33 the Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network, the  
34 Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the Na  
35 Kupuna Tribunal, and the Hawaii Family Forum.

