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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE  
VISITATION RIGHTS FOR GRANDPARENTS AND HANAI INDIVIDUALS  
WHO ARE INFORMALLY RAISING THESE CHILDREN.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. There are approximately fourteen thousand  
2 grandparents and hanai individuals who are raising  
3 grandchildren--grandparents and hanai individuals who are  
4 parenting a second generation because a child's biological  
5 parents are unable to raise the child because of circumstances  
6 such as incarceration, substance abuse, divorce, death, or  
7 deployment. Many grandparents and hanai individuals raise such  
8 children informally, without intervention by family court or  
9 the department of human service's child protective services.  
10 When the child is subsequently returned to a biological parent,  
11 the child's parent often prevents the grandparents and hanai  
12 individuals from visiting the child. Grandparents and hanai  
13 individuals have no legal mechanism that permits them to visit  
14 the minor child that they raised when the child's biological  
15 parents were unable or unwilling to do so.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to  
2 determine the visitation rights, if any, for grandparents and  
3 hanai individuals who are informally raising minor children.

4           SECTION 2. There is established a joint legislative task  
5 force to determine what visitation rights exist or should exist  
6 for grandparents and hanai individuals who are informally  
7 raising minor children. The members of the task force shall  
8 include four members appointed by the president of the senate  
9 and four members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
10 representatives. Appointees to the task force shall include the  
11 chairs of the appropriate standing committees in each chamber  
12 having subject matter jurisdiction over child visitation rights.

13           The task force shall submit a report of findings and  
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later  
15 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
16 of 2007. The joint legislative task force shall cease to exist  
17 on June 30, 2007.

18           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

By Request



**SB 2443**

**Report Title:**

Visitation Rights; Grandparents and Hanai; Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes a joint legislative task force to determine visitation rights of grandparents and hanai individuals who raise grandchildren they have informally raised when biological parent is unable to do so.

