

MAR 15 2006

S.C.R. NO. 189

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO INVESTIGATE AND
ASSESS LAWS AFFECTING AT-RISK YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, each day in Hawaii there are teenagers living on
2 the streets, running away from abusive household situations and
3 foster care, and confronting adult issues, who are unable to
4 legally gain shelter; and

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6 WHEREAS, teenage parents currently are unable to legally
7 make decisions for and seek custody of their children; and

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9 WHEREAS, current state law only allows for emancipation of
10 a person under the age of eighteen upon the person's marriage;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, the State has a vital interest in ensuring that
14 there are legal mechanisms available to protect young adults
15 from prostitution, sexual predators, and abuse, and to provide
16 necessary safety net services so teenagers do not fall through
17 the cracks; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
22 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study of Hawaii's
23 laws affecting youth under the age of eighteen and to recommend
24 appropriate statutory changes; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include:

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28 (1) An evaluation of the efficacy of Hawaii laws governing
29 youth rights, including:

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31 (A) Emancipation;

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33 (B) Custody by minor parents;

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