
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES FOR PLACING A CHILD 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,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
3 that the Department of Human Services (DHS) is requested to
4 convene a working group to determine the feasibility of
5 implementing procedures for placing a child in temporary foster
6 custody with kin or non-kin foster parents, including the
7 possibility of a committee to make decisions on a case-by-case
8 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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- 2 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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- 4 (5) Native Hawaiian groups;
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- 6 (6) Guardians ad litem;
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- 8 (7) Social workers;
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- 10 (8) Foster parents; and
- 11
- 12 (9) Foster children;
- 13

14 and

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

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
22 Executive Director of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association,
23 President of the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, and Executive
24 Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network.

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OFFERED BY: Therese Chun Oakland

