
SENATE 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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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
33 that the Department of Human Services (DHS) is requested to
34 convene a working group to determine the feasibility of



1 implementing procedures for placing a child in temporary foster
2 custody with kin or non-kin foster parents, including the
3 possibility of a committee to make decisions on a case-by-case
4 basis; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
7 to discuss, among other things:

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9 (1) Defining "attachment" as it pertains to the
10 relationship between a foster child and a caregiver,
11 and how attachment can be considered when determining
12 placement of a child;
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14 (2) Determining circumstances under which siblings may be
15 separated, and finding solutions to keep siblings
16 together whenever possible;
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18 (3) Determining the length of time children should remain
19 in the foster care system and finding solutions to
20 minimize their time in the system, without
21 jeopardizing the children's health or welfare; and
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23 (4) Determining whether changes are needed to improve the
24 present model of foster placement, or whether the
25 methods of foster placement require further review and
26 analysis;

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28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to include in
31 the working group, stakeholders, including but not limited to:

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33 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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35 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
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37 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
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39 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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41 (5) Native Hawaiian groups;
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43 (6) Guardians ad litem;

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- 1 (7) Social workers;
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- 3 (8) Foster parents;
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- 5 (9) Foster children;
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- 7 (10) Parents whose children are or have been involved with
- 8 Child Protective Services;
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- 10 (11) Other relatives of children who are or have been
- 11 involved with Child Protective Services;
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- 13 (12) The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii;
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- 15 (13) Na Kupuna Tribunal; and
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- 17 (14) The Hawaii Family Forum;
- 18

19 and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a
22 report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the
23 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the
27 Executive Director of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association, the
28 President of the Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, the Executive
29 Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network, the Executive
30 Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the Na Kupuna
31 Tribunal, and the Hawaii Family Forum.

