
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE COMMUNITIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING
GRANDCHILDREN BY SUPPORTING POLICIES AND SERVICES THAT ARE
CONDUCTIVE TO THAT FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau,
2 there was an over thirty per cent increase in the number of
3 children under age eighteen years living in grandparent-headed
4 households in Hawaii between 1990 and 2000; and

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6 WHEREAS, of the 14,029 grandparents in Hawaii who report
7 that they are responsible for their resident grandchildren, over
8 one-fifth also report that the grandchildren's parents do not
9 live in the household; and

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11 WHEREAS, the reasons that grandparents take the role of
12 primary caregivers from their children often reflect broader
13 social issues such as, divorce, substance abuse, incarceration,
14 mental illness, and neglect or abuse of the grandchildren; and

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16 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren report more
17 anxiety, depression, and physical health problems than their
18 non-caregiving peers; and

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20 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents often report feeling guilt
21 or shame resulting from the situations that lead to their
22 acquiring custody of their grandchildren; and

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24 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents often spend funds they
25 saved for retirement to care for their grandchildren instead;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, custodial grandparents need accurate and
29 accessible information on a myriad of issues including legal aid
30 for custody concerns, financial assistance, counseling, respite



1 care, housing, health care, transportation, and education
 2 regarding parenting for a second time; and
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4 WHEREAS, grandparents raising grandchildren should be
 5 treated by the childcare and eldercare communities with dignity,
 6 respect, and recognition equal to parents; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 10 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the childcare and
 11 eldercare communities are urged to acknowledge the unique
 12 circumstances of grandparents raising grandchildren by
 13 supporting policies and services that are conducive to that
 14 familial relationship; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
 18 the Director of Human Services, the Superintendent of Education,
 19 the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing
 20 Administration, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing
 21 Finance and Development Administration, the Executive Director
 22 of the Hawaii County Office of Aging, the Chair of the Maui
 23 Council on Aging; the Executive Director of the City and County
 24 of Honolulu, Elderly Affairs Division; the County Executive on
 25 Aging of the Kauai County Office on Elderly Affairs; the
 26 Executive Directors of Hawaii Family Services, Good Beginnings
 27 Alliance, Hawaii Intergenerational Network, AARP Hawaii, the
 28 Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center; and the Chairpersons of
 29 Na Tutu, Tutus in Control, and the Hi'i Na Kupuna Coalition.
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OFFERED BY:

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