

JAN 24 2007

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