

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1424

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02 2007

RE: S.C.R. No. 21

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 21 entitled:

"SENATE 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, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the childcare and eldercare communities to acknowledge the unique circumstances of grandparents raising grandchildren by supporting policies and services that are conducive to that familial relationship.

The Department of Health; the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Na Tutu, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; and one individual submitted testimony in support of this measure.

According to the testimony, it is estimated that more than fourteen thousand grandparents are primary caregivers for their grandchildren in Hawaii. The reasons that grandparents assume responsibility for their grandchildren often reflect broader social issues such as divorce, substance abuse, incarceration, mental illness, and neglect or abuse of the grandchildren. The challenges and responsibilities of raising grandchildren often place substantial financial and emotional stress on grandparents. This measure recognizes the contribution that grandparents make to the lives of their grandchildren and to the community by assuming



these responsibilities and encourages supportive policies and services to help them in these demanding roles.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 21 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services and
Public Housing,

Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



