

JAN 18 2008

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that grandparents are  
2 part of the natural support system for a family. In addition to  
3 their familial relationship with the child, grandparents offer  
4 other strengths and resources, such as life experience and  
5 maturity. The rights, knowledge, and wisdom of a child's  
6 grandparents can be instrumental to the effective conduct of  
7 certain hearings under chapter 587, Hawaii Revised Statutes, at  
8 which decisions are made regarding the best interests of the  
9 child and the need for protective services.

10           The purpose of this Act is to give a child's grandparent an  
11 opportunity to participate as a party at certain child  
12 protective hearings, thereby helping to ensure the safety and  
13 well-being of the child.

14           SECTION 2. Section 587-51.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

16           "(b) Notice of all hearings subsequent to the section  
17 587-71 disposition hearing shall be served upon the current  
18 foster parent or foster parents[7] and each grandparent who can



1 be located, each of whom shall be entitled to participate in the  
2 proceedings as a party. Notice of hearings shall be served by  
3 the department upon the current foster parent or foster parents  
4 and each grandparent who can be located no less than forty-eight  
5 hours before the scheduled hearing, subject to a shortening of  
6 time when a hearing is set within a shorter time frame. No  
7 hearing shall be held until the current foster parent or foster  
8 parents [~~are~~] and each grandparent who can be located is served.  
9 For purposes of this subsection, notice [~~to foster parents~~] may  
10 be effected by hand delivery, regular mail, or by facsimile or  
11 electronic mail if receipt may be confirmed, and may consist of  
12 the last court order, if it includes the date and time of the  
13 hearing.

14 (c) For purposes of this section, "party" or "parties"  
15 shall include the current foster parents[~~-~~] and grandparents."

16 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
18 begun, before its effective date.

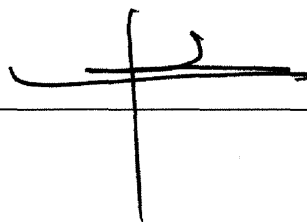
19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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By Request



**Report Title:**

Child Protective Act; Notice of Hearings

**Description:**

Permits a child's grandparent to participate as a party at certain child protective hearings.

