

MAR 12 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE AND ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN IN CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS.

1 WHEREAS, there is no resource that is more vital to the
2 continued existence and integrity of native Hawaiians than their
3 children; and

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5 WHEREAS, approximately 50 percent of the foster care cases
6 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
7 involve native Hawaiian families; and

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9 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian communities have expressed concern
10 that cultural needs are not being given the importance that they
11 should, with regard to the placement of children in custody
12 proceedings; and

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14 WHEREAS, the State should adopt a policy to protect the
15 cultural and traditional interests of native Hawaiian children
16 and promote the stability and security of native Hawaiian
17 families; and

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19 WHEREAS, such a policy should include standards for the
20 removal of native Hawaiian children from their families and the
21 placement of these children in hanai or lawe hanai homes that
22 will reflect the unique values of native Hawaiian culture; and

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24 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians should be provided assistance in
25 navigating child and family service programs; and

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27 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 1895, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2008,
28 provides the framework for the Native Hawaiian Child Welfare
29 Act, which establishes custody proceedings for native Hawaiian
30 children; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that DHS is requested to
4 convene a task force to determine the feasibility of
5 implementing the provisions of Part I of H.B. No. 1895, H.D. 1;
6 and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to include in
9 the task force, representatives of the following:

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11 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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13 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
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15 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
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17 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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19 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
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21 (6) Honolulu Community Action Program - Leeward District;
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23 (7) Na Kupuna O Waianae;
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25 (8) The Legacy Coalition;
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27 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana; and
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29 (10) Any other individuals or organizations DHS deems
30 necessary;

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32 and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is also requested to
35 conduct a one-year pilot project based on Part III of H.B. No.
36 1895, H.D. 1, which requires a pilot project of no more than 25
37 cases handled in accordance with procedures set forth in the
38 bill; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a
41 report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed
42 legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than 20 days
43 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
3 Services.
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OFFERED BY: *Shianne Chun Oakland*

