
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING NA KUPUNA O WAIANAE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE 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 fifty per cent of the foster care
6 cases under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services
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,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
34 that Na Kupuna O Waianae is requested to convene a task force to



1 determine the feasibility of implementing the provisions of Part
2 I of H.B. No. 1895, H.D. 1 (2008); and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Na Kupuna O Waianae is
5 requested to include in the task force representatives of the
6 following:

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- 8 (1) The Department of Human Services;
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- 10 (2) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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- 12 (3) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
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- 14 (4) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
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- 16 (5) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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- 18 (6) The Department of the Attorney General;
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- 20 (7) Honolulu Community Action Program - Leeward District;
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- 22 (8) The Legacy Coalition;
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- 24 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana; and
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- 26 (10) Any other individuals or organizations that Na Kupuna
- 27 O Waianae deems necessary; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 examine, among other things, the feasibility of a one-year pilot
31 project based on Part III of H.B. No. 1895, H.D. 1 (2008), which
32 requires a pilot project of no more than twenty-five cases
33 handled in accordance with procedures set forth in the bill; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
36 submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations,
37 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
38 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
39 of 2009, and a final report of its findings and recommendations,
40 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
41 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services and
3 the Administrator of Na Kupuna O Waianae.

