

JUDtestimony

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LATE TESTIMONY

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: HB2198 HD1

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Purpose: The purpose of HB2198 is to establish a task force to focus on the needs and issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.

Position: We support HB2198.

To the Honorable Tommy Waters and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am in support of HB2198, which would establish a task force to focus on the needs and issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren.

2/8/2008

Thousands of our grandparents in Hawaii are parenting young children due to the absence of biological parents. The challenges they face are tremendous and include financial hardship, housing difficulties, legal and custody issues, grief and depression, and many other challenges. Our children who are in this position are not only in need of food and shelter and loving care, but are often children with many emotional issues due to the many losses they have suffered through. Grandparents who take in their grandchildren deserve our support and commitment as they are accepting a tremendous responsibility and workload in their older years. These grandparents are often struggling on their own with health problems or financial concerns, yet are taking on the role as parents to their grandchildren because there is no one else to do it. A task force would allow us to gather information on their needs and concerns and help to establish public policy that would make a positive impact on thousands of families.

We thank you for lending your support to these and other initiatives which will offer assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren.

Thank you,

Gina Medrano

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