
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ADOPT, AMEND, OR
REPEAL RULES IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE HAWAIIAN
SYSTEM OF HANAI DURING THE LICENSING OF FOSTER PARENTS.

1 WHEREAS, over fifty per cent of children in foster care, or
2 approximately one thousand four hundred children, are of
3 Hawaiian ancestry; and

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5 WHEREAS, only about one-half of the foster children who are
6 of Hawaiian ancestry are placed in foster homes that share their
7 Hawaiian culture; and

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9 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian communities and families have
10 expressed concern that cultural needs are not considered as
11 heavily as they should be in the placement of foster children;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian culture has long embraced the
15 traditional system of "hanai" which allows a person other than a
16 child's parent to play a substantial role in the material
17 support and upbringing of the child; and

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19 WHEREAS, in many cases, the people raising children of
20 Hawaiian ancestry in a hanai relationship are the children's
21 grandparents; and

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23 WHEREAS, due to age and economic circumstances, many
24 caregivers in a hanai relationship are unable to satisfy the
25 department of human services' requirements for the licensing of
26 foster parents, which results in children being taken into the
27 department's custody; and

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29 WHEREAS, the State is mandated to protect and preserve the
30 customs and traditions of Hawaiians pursuant to Article XII,
31 section 7, of the State Constitution; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human Services is requested to adopt, amend, or repeal rules in accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in order to recognize and respect the Hawaiian culture and system of hanai during the licensing process for foster parents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is requested to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the program director of Kokua Ohana.

OFFERED BY:

John M. M...
Tom Brown

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D.C. ...

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