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## HOUSE 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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33           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2009, that the Department of Human Services is requested to  
 2 adopt, amend, or repeal rules in accordance with chapter 91,  
 3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, in order to recognize and respect the  
 4 Hawaiian culture and system of hanai during the licensing  
 5 process for foster parents; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is requested to  
 8 submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and  
 9 recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than  
 10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 11 2010; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the  
 15 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the program  
 16 director of Kokua Ohana.  
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OFFERED BY:

*John M. T. ...*

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JAN 23 2009

