
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOUSING AGENCIES TO AFFORD ELDERLY TENANTS IN PUBLIC AND SENIOR HOUSING WHO HAVE UNEXPECTEDLY BECOME THE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN-IN-CRISIS A REASONABLE TIME TO FIND APPROPRIATE HOUSING BEFORE THEY MAY BE EVICTED.

1 WHEREAS, in the process of life sometimes unforeseen
2 circumstances or family crises beyond one's control result in a
3 situation where grandparents become the caregivers or legal
4 guardians of their grandchildren-in-crisis; and

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6 WHEREAS, Act 220, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, established
7 a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force to focus on the
8 needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force
11 found that grandparents caring for grandchildren experience
12 difficulties finding adequate housing; and

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14 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, natural processes and cultural
15 practices are accepted, respected, and practiced when a
16 grandparent cares for a grandchild-in-crisis, as documented in
17 *The 2007 Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*
18 (Assessment) prepared by the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
19 Department of Family and Consumer Science; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Assessment reports that over 14,000
22 grandparents are primary caregivers for over 33,000
23 grandchildren in the State of Hawaii, and that these
24 grandparents are playing an important part in ensuring the
25 well-being of children in Hawaii and are also saving the State
26 approximately \$17,000,000 per month by caring for their
27 grandchildren outside the foster care system; and

28
29 WHEREAS, seniors who have limited or fixed incomes and who
30 live in government-funded public housing or senior housing could



1 suddenly find themselves caring for grandchildren-in-crisis who
2 are minors and in need of immediate care, shelter, and food; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's housing market is one of the costliest in
5 the nation, providing few options for seniors living on limited
6 incomes; and
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8 WHEREAS, a senior who lives in a public or senior housing
9 on a limited income may not be able to immediately find housing
10 to accommodate a grandchild, and may have to apply for a
11 suitable public housing unit that entails being placed on a
12 waitlist, a situation that forces the grandparent to continue to
13 live in the same unit in possible violation of housing policies
14 and rules; and
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16 WHEREAS, current federal and state laws exempt certain
17 senior housing complexes from housing discrimination laws
18 intended to protect families with children, and accordingly,
19 grandparents may be evicted for allowing a grandchild under the
20 age of eighteen to live with them; and
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22 WHEREAS, federal and state laws allow housing authorities
23 and managers of public housing complexes to change policy and
24 house rules to make exceptions for seniors who need to find new
25 housing; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force
28 strongly recommended to the Kupuna Caucus and the Joint
29 Legislative Committee on Aging in Place and Family Caregiving
30 that general awareness be raised about the plight of
31 grandparents raising grandchildren-in-crisis in senior housing,
32 particularly the need to allow grandparents more time to find
33 new housing; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that all public and private
38 housing agencies that receive government funding are requested
39 to make appropriate exemptions in their respective policies to
40 allow tenants who are seniors to keep grandchildren-in-crisis
41 with them in their units for a reasonable period of time until
42 suitable housing is obtained to accommodate the grandchildren;
43 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that housing officials are requested
2 to waive house rules and avoid sending eviction notices to
3 eligible seniors who unexpectedly become the primary caregivers
4 to their grandchildren-in-crisis to allow affected grandparents
5 a reasonable time period to find appropriate housing; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that housing officials are
8 requested, as a proactive approach to affording relief, to
9 identify affected grandparents; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Hawaii
13 Field Office Director of the United States Department of Housing
14 and Urban Development; the Director of Human Services; the
15 Director of the Executive Office on Aging; Executive Director of
16 the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation;
17 Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority;
18 Executive Director of the Hawaii Community Development
19 Authority; Housing Administrator of the Hawaii County Office of
20 Housing and Community Development; Executive on Housing of the
21 County of Kauai Housing Agency; Director of the Department of
22 Housing and Human Concerns of the County of Maui; the President
23 of Big Island Housing Foundation; the President of Seawind
24 Realty Inc.; General Partners of Kekaha Plantation Housing
25 Partnership; the Director of Lokelani Hale; the Director of
26 Piilani Housing; the Oahu County Manager of Prudential Locations
27 LLC, Property Management Division; the Director of Hawaiian
28 Properties, Ltd.; the President of Bob Tanaka, Inc; the Director
29 of St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii; the Director of the
30 CBM Group, Inc.; the Director of Century 21 Realty Specialists
31 Corporation; the Director of Cambridge Management, Inc.; the
32 Director of Hawaiiana Management Company; General Partners of
33 Kulana Hale; the Chairperson of Housing Solutions Incorporated;
34 Members of Realty Laua LLC; the Director of Nana'ikeola Senior
35 Apartments, Inc.; the Chair and President of Retirement Housing
36 Foundation; General Partners of Senior Residence at Iwilei; the
37 Director of EAH, Inc.; the Director of Whitmore Circle
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H.C.R. NO. 12

1 Apartments; the Executive Vice President of Apartment Investment
2 and Management Company; and the Executive Director of AARP.

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