
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO INCARCERATED PARENTS TO ENSURE CHILD SUPPORT ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED WITHOUT DELAY AND UPON RELEASE, TO PREPARE THEM FOR REINTEGRATION WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING GRANDPARENTS WHO HAVE RAISED THEIR CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, as a result of the work of the Joint Legislative
2 Committee on Family Caregiving, Act 11, Special Session Law of
3 Hawaii 2008, established a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
4 Task Force (GRG) to assess and report on the needs and issues of
5 grandparents raising grandchildren; and
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7 WHEREAS, the final report generated by the Grandparents
8 Raising Grandchildren Task Force found that incarcerated parents
9 do not understand their rights and responsibilities regarding
10 child support payments, including their responsibility to inform
11 the court of their incarceration and corresponding inability to
12 pay child support; and
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14 WHEREAS, the GRG final report also found that:
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- 16 (1) Incarcerated parents leaving prison lack awareness on
17 how to best re-enter relations with their children;
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- 19 (2) Reintegration classes are offered to parents being
20 released from prison but are not mandatory; and
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- 22 (3) Parents being released from incarceration without
23 adequate re-entry education may disrupt stable
24 households that grandparents provide; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2010, that the Department of Public Safety make mandatory its
29 existing program for preparing soon-to-be-released parents to
30 deal with life issues, and enhance that program by including
31 information and training regarding how soon-to-be-released
32 parents can:
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- 1 (1) Renew contacts with their children and grandparents
- 2 and other ohana or family member caring for their
- 3 children;
- 4
- 5 (2) Prevent or avoid conflict and disrupting the lives of
- 6 their children and grandparents who have been raising
- 7 their children; and
- 8
- 9 (3) Prepare themselves for assuming full responsibility as
- 10 a parent; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon intake, the Department of
 13 Public Safety inform parents being incarcerated that it is the
 14 parent's responsibility to contact the respective court in
 15 reference to child support obligations and to inform the court
 16 of the parent's inability to pay child support due to
 17 incarceration; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
 20 is requested to submit a report to the legislature on the
 21 actions it has taken pursuant to this resolution no later than
 22 twenty days before the convening of the 2011 session; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the
 26 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the County
 27 Executive of the City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs
 28 Division, the Director of the State of Hawaii Executive Office
 29 on Aging, and the Head of the Community Alliance on Prisons.

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