

---

---

# SENATE 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  
6

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  
13

14 WHEREAS, the GRG final report also found that:

- 15
- 16 (1) Incarcerated parents leaving prison lack awareness of  
17 how to best re-enter relations with their children;
  - 18
  - 19 (2) Reintegration classes are offered to parents being  
20 released from prison but are not mandatory; and  
21
  - 22 (3) Parents being released from incarceration without  
23 adequate re-entry education may disrupt stable  
24 households that grandparents provide;  
25

26 now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
30 that the Department of Public Safety make mandatory its existing  
31 program for preparing soon-to-be-released parents who are  
32 incarcerated to deal with life issues, and enhance that program



1 by including information and training regarding how those  
2 parents can:

- 3
- 4 (1) Renew contacts with their children and grandparents  
5 and other ohana or family members caring for their  
6 children;
- 7
- 8 (2) Prevent or avoid conflict and disrupting the lives of  
9 their children and grandparents, other ohana, or  
10 family members who have been raising their children;  
11 and
- 12
- 13 (3) Prepare themselves for assuming full responsibility as  
14 a parent; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon intake, the Department of  
17 Public Safety inform parents being incarcerated that it is the  
18 parent's responsibility to contact the respective court in  
19 reference to child support obligations and to inform the court  
20 of the parent's inability to pay child support due to  
21 incarceration; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety  
24 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the  
25 actions it has taken pursuant to this measure no later than  
26 twenty days before the convening of the 2011 Regular Session;  
27 and  
28

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

