

JAN 21 2010

## SENATE 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

20  
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

7  
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

21  
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 Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
37 House of Representatives 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



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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# S.C.R. NO. 30

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

Inzanne Chun Oakland  
Mr. [Signature]  
Carol [Signature]  
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