
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROVISION OF ORIENTATION AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING TO INCREASE THE ABILITY OF STATE AGENCY CASE WORKERS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES FACED BY GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, as a result of the work of the Joint Legislative
2 Committee on Family Caregiving, Act 11, Special Session Laws of
3 Hawaii 2008, established a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
4 Task Force 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 as a result of a March
9 2009 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Focus Group, that
10 participants with grandchildren in custody of Child Protective
11 Services (CPS), Department of Human Services (DHS), expressed
12 common frustration with DHS case workers because grandparents
13 may not have received enough information from DHS workers; and

14
15 WHEREAS, observations in the March 2009 GRG Focus Group
16 show that:

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18 (1) Grandparents have little or no understanding of laws
19 that drive a CPS case and may misunderstand the role
20 of a DHS case worker;
21
22 (2) Grandparents raising grandchildren often feel afraid,
23 intimidated, helpless and angry;
24
25 (3) Many grandparents raising grandchildren do not seek
26 help from DHS because they are afraid that "the
27 system" will remove their grandchildren from their
28 care;
29
30 (4) Some DHS case workers:
31



- 1 (A) Do not respect cultural values related to the
2 sacredness of the grandparent/grandchild
3 relationship;
- 4
- 5 (B) Do not respect the senior as the grandparent with
6 knowledge about the history of the child's
7 family;
- 8
- 9 (C) Do not acknowledge a grandparent's right to have
10 a view of the best interest of their
11 grandchildren; and
- 12
- 13 (D) Do not provide the grandparent with emotional
14 support; rather the grandparents reported
15 distress in relations with some workers; and
- 16
- 17 (5) Many grandparents do not know about current laws and
18 subsidies that are designed to help and protect them;
19 now, therefore,
- 20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Human Services is urged to provide orientation and additional
25 training to increase the ability of DHS case workers to address
26 the issues faced by grandparents who raise grandchildren,
27 including increasing case workers' awareness about:

- 28
- 29 (1) Local cultural beliefs regarding the important roles
30 of grandparents within the family structure,
31 especially when grandchildren need care;
- 32
- 33 (2) What grandparents experience (fear, helplessness, and
34 anger) when their grandchildren are taken into custody
35 by Child Protective Services or placed in foster care,
36 and there are rules for having contacts with their
37 grandchildren; and
- 38
- 39 (3) Grandparents' need for clear explanations to
40 understand guidelines for managing cases involving
41 children in state custody who need foster care and a
42 safe permanent home; and
- 43

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 2 Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
 3 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011
 4 Regular Session on the initiatives the Department has
 5 implemented to increase the ability of DHS case workers to
 6 understand and address the issues faced by grandparents who
 7 raise grandchildren; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 11 Services, the Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the
 12 County Executive of the City and County of Honolulu Elderly
 13 Affairs Division, the Coordinator for the Department of Health
 14 Foster Care Licensing Unit, and the Administrator of the Social
 15 Services Division of the Department of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

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