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## SENATE 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  
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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  
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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;  
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- 22           (2) Grandparents raising grandchildren often feel afraid,  
23 intimidated, helpless and angry;  
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- 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;  
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- 30           (4) Some DHS case workers:  
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- 32                (A) Do not respect cultural values related to the  
33 sacredness of the grandparent/grandchild  
34 relationship;



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(B) Do not respect the senior as the grandparent with knowledge about the history of the child's family;

(C) Do not acknowledge a grandparent's right to have a view of the best interest of their grandchildren; and

(D) Do not provide the grandparent with emotional support; rather the grandparents reported distress in relations with some workers; and

(5) Many grandparents do not know about current laws and subsidies that are designed to help and protect them; now, therefore,

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Services is requested to submit a report to this body no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session on the initiatives the Department has implemented to



1 increase the ability of DHS case workers to understand and  
2 address the issues faced by grandparents who raise  
3 grandchildren; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the  
7 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the County Executive  
8 of the City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division, the  
9 Coordinator for the Department of Health Foster Care Licensing  
10 Unit, and the Administrator of the Social Services Division of  
11 the Department of Human Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

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