

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services  
The Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 2012 8:30am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Testimony by  
Raelene Tenno  
**Supports HB2426**

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**Bill No. and Title:** HB2426 RELATING TO CHILD VISITATION

**Report Title:** Child Custody; Grandparent Visitation

**Purpose:** Permits family court to award reasonable visitation to grandparents if the denial of visitation would cause significant harm to the child. Establishes a rebuttable presumption that visitation decisions made by a parent are in the best interests of the child. Presumption may be rebutted by certain evidence. Identifies factors the court shall consider in awarding visitation. Effective July 1, 2012.

As a family advocate and also on a personal experience, I am in support of House Bill 2426 in granting , Grandparents visitation rights.

As many know, often times it's the grandparents that offer the child a comforting, safe, and secure haven to the family structure and should be able to visit with the child/ren as often as necessary for the child/ren. No grandparent should ever have to hire an attorney or petition the court for visitations.

I currently have grandparents that have not seen their grandchild during the holidays (since 12/14) or the visits are limited to 1 hour per month. Both cases are non DV, Drug or Sex abuse related and the birth parents rights have been terminated by Child Welfare and the child had been living with the grandparent/s for extended periods of time.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2301.