



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
H.B. NO. 340, RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT.

**BEFORE THE:**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**DATE:** Thursday, February 14, 2013                      **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 329  
**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Garry L. Kemp, Administrator, Child Support Enforcement Agency

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Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this measure.

The purpose of this measure is to clarify the liability of grandparents for the support of their grandchildren when the grandchild's parent is a minor.

Although the Department of the Attorney General recognizes the role of the family, specifically grandparents, in assisting minor parents in child rearing and that grandparents should be fiscally responsible for their minor children, the Department opposes the new section proposed to be added to chapter 576D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as unnecessary. Section 584-15(f), HRS, already provides grandparent liability for support of a child whenever a parent of that child is a minor. If the Committee believes that additional wording is necessary, it would be more properly placed under chapter 577, HRS, which addresses parents' duties and responsibilities towards their children.

In addition, the Department of the Attorney General is concerned that this bill would have an adverse impact on the Child Support Enforcement Agency's operations and personnel. The measure raises many questions about how the amount of support the grandparent is required to contribute is to be calculated. Is the amount calculated using the combined income of both sets of grandparents? What happens if the grandparents are separated? Should there be separate orders for each grandparent of each minor parent? Should the minor parent contribute to the support if he or she has the financial ability? Because of questions like these, implementation of this measure will be difficult and time consuming for the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

The Department of the Attorney General respectfully requests that this measure be held in Committee.