

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY OF JAMES E. COON SPEAKING IN STRONG SUPPORT SB422,SD1

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd and Members of HUS :

My name is James E. Coon and I am speaking in strong support of SB422, SD1.

I am speaking as a citizen and a grandparent in favor of the intent of this bill which gives grandparents some potential visitation rights. I do believe that the bill as written still makes it very difficult for grandparents to prevail at a hearing to exercise their visitation rights because of the stringent procedures in order for these visitation rights to be awarded. The threshold of a preponderance of evidence countered by a rebuttable presumption that a parent's decision regarding grandparent visitation still appears to make it very difficult for grandparents to have that right.

A reduction of the "preponderance of the evidence" to "reasonable evidence" might ensure grandparents visitation rights be respected as it relates to the wellbeing of the child.

Sincerely,



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