



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Monday, February 27, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

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

Aloha Chair Senator Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Member of WAM:

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,

James E. Coon, PO Box 847, Kula, HI 96790

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 7:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mauikini@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB422 on Feb 27, 2017 09:35AM

SB422

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeny Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am a Registered Voter from South Maui. I support this measure however there has to be a comprehensive grandparent/caregiver capacity assessment before placement to ensure that the grandparent physical and mental health well being and socioeconomic status is supported while caring for their grandchildren. There's also the intergenerational gap between grandparents and children that need to be supported. Using an evidenced based parenting models such as Healthy Families America, Parent as Teachers, Home Instructions for the Preschool Youngsters, and Nurturing Parenting are examples that can be explored to support grandparents and parents in general. Again, I support this measure with the incorporation of these protective factors to strengthen the family unit. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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