

2/2/2022



Aloha,

On behalf of Grandparents Rights Hawaii Campaign, we strongly are in support of bill SB2858.

Last year our ‘ohana suffered a tremendous loss. My niece’s (Tajhlia Kuehana) sudden passing is what brings me in support of this bill. My grand-niece (Zaylee Marie) age 5 now, at the time lived primarily with Tajhlia and her kupuna wahine, Misty Kuehana. Zaylee often visited her biological father (Kyle Naylor) and his ‘ohana on their visitation days. The day of Tajhlia’s passing, was not only the day our ‘ohana loss someone so dear to us, but it was also the day we loss Zaylee Marie. As our ‘ohana grieved, Zaylee Marie was deprived of spending vital time with her mom in those last moments due to selfishness, and lack of empathy. Zaylee had a very special bond with both Tajhlia and Misty from birth. Misty on numerous occasions, along with other family members reached out to negotiate a visitation schedule but was denied and given broken promises. To advocate for her mo’opuna, Misty relied on the court system to help her come to a resolution. It is when our ‘ohana realized in Hawai’i there is no grandparents right and we needed to make a change by spreading awareness!

**I ulu no ka lala i ke kumu**

**The branches grow because of the trunk.**

**‘Olelo No‘eau- #1261**

Referring to the above ‘olelo No‘eau grandparents lay the foundation for their mo‘opuna in order for them to grow. In Hawai’i there are many grandparent’s whom would like to take on the responsibility in caring or to maintain visitation rights for their mo‘opuna in circumstances such as; death, incarceration, neglect, abuse etc.. How can something so crucial for a keiki’s success in life be denied!

This is where our ‘ohana came together began to advocate for other grandparents in Hawai’i. We are “Grandparents Rights Hawaii” campaign. We established on November 14<sup>th</sup> of 2021. We sign wave monthly across the Hawai’i Island in hopes to spread awareness and support SB2858.

Please pass bill SB2858. This bill will allow grandparents to have the opportunity to be present in their mo‘opuna life. This pilina is so critical in the upbringing of keiki who have experienced loss, illness, trauma etc.. This promotes positive relationships with the ‘ohana, keiki and others whom is very special to keiki. This is putting our mo‘opuna first! Guiding them on the path to having a successful life as an adult!

**Photos- Grandparents Rights Hawaii sign-waving**



Mahalo in allowing me share the reasoning I support SB2858.

Ashlynn Victorino on behalf of Grandparents Rights Hawaii Campaign

**SB-2858**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 12:30:41 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/3/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in support as written.

**LATE**

**SB-2858**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:44:39 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/3/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michelle Kuheana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support SB2858

On July 15th 2020 there was a tragedy in our family. My niece suddenly passed. From this day, my sister did not only loose her daughter but she also lost her grand-daughter due to not having grandparents rights in Hawaii.

On November 14th, 2020 it is when we as an 'ohana decided to spread awareness to everyone ragarding grandparent rights in Hawaii. On this day, we established our Grandparents rights hawaii campaign. We held signs in support of the previous HB589 now SB2858.

I support this bill because this doesnt only affect my 'ohana but it affects all kupuna wahine and all kupuna kane in Hawaii. As I think about my future and when I become a kupuna wahine, I would like my future mo'opuna to have a relationship with me as I did with my kupuna.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my thoughts and reasoing for supporting SB2858.

Michelle Galdones

**SB-2858**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:49:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/3/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Misty. D Kuheana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Misty Kuheana and I support Senate Bill 2858, regarding grandparents visitation rights.

On July 15, 2020 my eldest daughter took her own life leaving behind a beautiful three year old daughter, whom I raised from infancy. From that day rill now, the father of the child decided to terminate all contact with our family. As you can imagine this was a devastating blow to us. We were overcome with immense grief and hopelessness. But it is that grief and hopelessness that has compelled me, to change this situation through many attempts of reconciliation and mediation to no avail. So I hired a lawyer and petitioned the court for visitation rights and was well within my legal rights due to the fact that her biological mother (my daughter) was deceased. However because the living parent refused consent I was denied any and all legal rights to my own biological grandchild.