



3/23/23

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee, On behalf of Grandparents Rights Hawaii Campaign, I strongly am in support of bill SB406 SD1 HD1

**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!

Please pass bill SB406 SD1 HD1. 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 SB406 SD1

Ashlynn Victorino on behalf of Grandparents Rights Hawaii Campaign

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 3:03:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nonohe Botelho	Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform strongly SUPPORTS SB406, SD1, HD1, Relating to Child Visitation. The court should award reasonable visitation rights to the grandparents of a minor child when the child's parent is unable to exercise parental visitation due to death or incarceration and denial of reasonable grandparents visitation would cause significant harm to the child. Specifies that any person who violates the terms and conditions of the court order providing reasonable grandparent's rights should be subject to sanctions.

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 12:24:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Misty. D Kuheana	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,**

**My name is Misty Kuheana and I strongly support SB406 SD-1 HD-1 and believe the necessary steps were taken in amending this measure to satisfy any existing federal and state precedent.**

**I myself am a grandparent who played a significant role in raising my grandchild who lived with me from birth until my daughter's untimely death when her biological father took her and denied me all contact with her for reasons only known to him.**

**After many failed attempts to mediate and address any reservations he had, I felt my only option was to take him to court and sue for visitation rights . There I was told by the judge that he could not support my claim because in the state of Hawaii there are no Grandparents Rights! therefore I was at the fathers whim unless a law would be passed that would allow me this right.**

**It has been 2 yrs.7 mos. and 23 days since I've seen my granddaughter and everyday has been a painful struggle. So I humbly ask that you pass SB406 SD-1 so that me and so many grandparents like me have a chance to bond with our grandchildren and teach them important values such as respect, pride and tradition which too many of our youth today do not possess.**

**Our Kupuna's are the ones that have instilled these values in us as this Olelo perfectly explains " Ulu Na Lala no ke kumu " which translates to " The Branches grow because of the trunk " .**

**The responsibility is ours but for some of us the decision is in your hands , and it is my biggest hope that you find favor in this measure.**

**You , our legislative congress are the Kupuna's of Hawaii and we are relying on you to make the right decisions . The fate of our families are depending on you.**

**If you should for any reason have reservations about this bill just ask yourselves “ What would my grandparents say? “ or reflect on your own childhood and picture it without your grandparents, I'm sure you'll find that hard to imagine.**

**I wholeheartedly believe that passing this measure will bring families together and in extension lay down a stronger foundation by building better relationships.**

**Mahalo nui loa for your attention regarding this matter and for the opportunity to testify.**

**Respectfully ,**

**Misty D. Kuheana**

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 9:03:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tristy-lee Paiva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

My name is Tristy-lee Paiva, 19 year old Resident of Hilo, Hawaii in support of Bill SB406. This is the farthest progress we've made for Bill SB406 thanks to all of you who've supported it. The grandparent-grandchild relationship bond is unlike any other. Maybe you were lucky enough to have a grandparent-grandchild relationship or two in your life growing up, or maybe you never got to experience the love from a grandma or the wisdom from a grandpa, but if your child is about to be born into the world, or already is in the world, with loving grandparents they are very beneficial in parents lives because Grandparents play a key role in the lives of children. They are positive role models, help kids develop problem solving skills & can become a stabilizing force for young people during times of trauma, such as divorce or the loss of a parent. Spending time with grandchildren is just as beneficial to grandparents, too. Grandparents play a role in the family for passing down the family history, telling stories about a time long ago, & instilling lessons about living a grateful & full life. These stories will help shape them & introduce a strong familial tie into their lives.

I've learned a lot from my grandparents throughout my whole life & they've always been there for me, please help grandparents & grandchildren who are restricted to seeing each other because of parents choices, they should have a fair chance in seeing their grandchildren & this Bill would make that happen.

Mahalo for your time,

Tristy-lee Paiva

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 3:41:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marilyn Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members,

**I strongly support this bill.**

Marilyn Yamamoto

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 10:48:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Devany Encencio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Committee,

My name is Devany Encencio & I am in full support of SB406 for Grandparents visitation because growing up when my parents were working, my mama and papa raised me , my siblings & my cousins. They were always there at school events, outings and took us out on family days. They were and still are the glue to our family. Recently, I've lost a cousin due to mental illness. She was not only a cousin to me, she was my best friend, My go to, my baby & I've raised her also. The day she left this world, my heart was stepped on and crushed. I have never been the same. She had left a daughter behind. Before she passed, my Aunty, My uncle and entire family raised her daughter because she was battling with her illness. Her daughter brought joy to our lives. Since my cousin left, out of anger & selfishness. Her father took her from us. We never gave up trying to contact them to see her. We've constantly asked to spend time or invite her over for family functions. She was not allowed to even come to her mother's celebration of life even if we asked for just a drive by and a hello. I've not only lost my best friend but I also lost the only thing left of her, her daughter. It has killed our family losing 2 of them. So with this being said I hope SB 406 will be put into consideration. Not for just our family for all those who have lost rights to see their moopuna due to death, neglect or incarceration. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Devany Encencio

**SB-406-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 11:05:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cheryl K. Silva, I'm 42 years old and I reside in Hilo, Hawai'i. I am submitting my testimony in support of Bill SB406. I was born and raised here in Hilo and my parents were divorced by the time I reached middle school. Throughout the divorce and after, my maternal grandmother was a great support for me and my siblings. Although I am not a grandparent, I know the importance of having a loving grandparent in a child's life. My own grandmother was a companion, teacher, story teller, counselor, cook, supporter and more to me. I pray other children can be just as blessed as I was and other loving grandparents have the chance to be the same to their grandchildren.

A child who receives the love and time growing up with both maternal and paternal sides of their family, is a blessing. It's from family we learn basic skills, both family and cultural traditions and one's genealogy. A child learns and gains morals and values as well. Grandparents as the heads of the family, with more life experiences and knowledge are the best to help parents guide the children. One less child who is not suffering from feeling abandoned, anger issues, not knowing who they are and where they come from, can only be a benefit to oneself, family and community.

I know there are some cases where grandparents may have done harm to their grandchildren. But, I believe every case is different and we must not let a few bad ones ruin it, for the ones who deserve to be a part of their grandchildren's life. Why should children lose half of their family, because someone else says so. Let all grandparents have a fighting chance to be a part of their grandchildren's lives. There are different ways to go about monitoring each case while it is opened. There is supervised visits, counseling for the children, so they can be heard as well and family counseling. Those are just some of the examples. While I understand it takes time and money, every child is worth those efforts and every grandparent deserves to have a chance.

Thank you all for your time and consideration,

Cheryl K. Silva



03/23/23

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

I support SB406 SD1 HD1, and here are my reasons why. As a keiki growing up in Hawaii, I was brought up close to my kupuna. I thrived off the relationship and it made me who I am today. It is very important for kupuna to have a close bond with their mo'opuna because it will instill kuleana and aloha to the upbringing of keiki. Unfortunately, Hawaii does not have grandparents' visitation rights and I would like you to consider SB406 for the future generation of mo'opuna.

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my support for SB406.

Michelle Galdones



Aloha, My name is Rhiannon-Lee Strange. I am in full support of Bill SB 406. Supporting Grandparents Rights.

For me personally, I grew up with 3 sets of Grandparents. I was lucky enough to have both by blood and a set of step. I have nothing but great life long memories of fun, love and even cooking skills, that I use to this very day that was past on to me. I have also past them on to my children. Going to my grandparents house was something I looked forward to. I can still remember the smell of my grandmas cooking when i arrived. It was always fun to see my Auntys, Uncles, and best of all my Cousins. I remember sleeping over with them and just having fun. I have two Daughters that each carry a name of one of my Grandmas. These are just a few memories that i carry in my heart to this day, as my grandparents have all past on.

But, most recently I have experienced and why this bill passing is so important to me is for another personal heartfelt reason. On July 15, 2020, I lost my little cousin Tajhlia Kuheana. Since that day I also have not seen her daughter Zaylee Marie. I have seen her Grandparents so heart broken as they have not seen her either. She has Great-Grandparents as well that have not seen her. Her father is now keeping her from the family. That is not fair to Zaylee. Her grandparents have pretty much raised her from birth. That was all she knew, and now she is also being kept away. It just breaks my heart for all of them. I know she misses her Grandma and Papa. Missing her birthdays, first day of school, and Holidays are things that they can not get back and are the worst for them. Missing watching her grow up, missing her voice, missing her sing and dance, missing her play, just miss seeing her beautiful eyes. Its a shame that she is missing out on family and making her own memories. She is all that we have left of her mother. Its like we lost them both that dreadful day. But one day, as long it takes they will be reunited with Zaylee. Because I know her Grandparents wont stop

until they are together again. This is why I support Grandparents rights. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Mahalo,  
Rhiannon-Lee Strange