

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONDUCT FAMILY COURT PROCEEDINGS AT THE KAPOLEI COURT COMPLEX WITH THE CONSENT OF THE AFFECTED PARTIES OR UNLESS ONE OF THE PARTIES COMMENCES THE FAMILY COURT PROCEEDING AT THE KAPOLEI COURT COMPLEX.

1 WHEREAS, the current amount of available space in the First
2 Judicial Circuit for its courts and programs is insufficient to
3 meet the needs of its courts and programs; and
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5 WHEREAS, the lack of available space is particularly
6 challenging during Family Court matters where emotionally
7 charged parties in child custody and divorce proceedings are
8 crowded into close quarters or forced to wait in a congested
9 area outside the courtroom; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Hawaii State Judiciary received the
12 first of several appropriations to build a new court complex and
13 juvenile detention facility in Kapolei; and
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15 WHEREAS, groundbreaking for the construction of the future
16 10.97 acre Kapolei Court Complex occurred on July 17, 2007; and
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18 WHEREAS, the tentative completion date for the Kapolei
19 Court Complex is the end of 2009; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Kapolei Court Complex is expected to contain
22 over one hundred thousand square feet and accommodate District,
23 Family, and Circuit Court functions; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Judiciary has proposed that all
26 Family Court matters be conducted at the Kapolei Court Complex;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, however, opponents of this proposal state that it
30 is not fair for residents of areas such as Honolulu, Kakaako,
31 Waikiki, and Waimanalo to commute to Kapolei for their Family
32 Court proceedings; and
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1 WHEREAS, it is likely that the commute to the Kapolei Court
2 Complex will have the greatest detrimental impact on low-income
3 Family Court parties; and
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5 WHEREAS, this is due, in part, to the additional
6 transportation expenses that they will incur for themselves and
7 their legal counsel, as well as, the logistics of getting back
8 to work or fulfilling other commitments like picking children up
9 from school; and
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11 WHEREAS, the First Judicial Circuit should provide parties
12 with the option of conducting their Family Court proceedings at
13 the Kapolei Court Complex or at the existing Family Court
14 facility; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
18 that the Judiciary is requested to conduct Family Court
19 proceedings at the Kapolei Court Complex with the consent of the
20 affected parties or unless one of the parties commences the
21 Family Court proceeding at the Kapolei Court Complex; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii
25 Supreme Court.
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OFFERED BY:


by request 