

MAR 12 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE AND ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN IN CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS.

1 WHEREAS, there is no resource that is more vital to the
2 continued existence and integrity of native Hawaiians than their
3 children; and
4

5 WHEREAS, approximately 50 percent of the foster care cases
6 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services (DHS)
7 involve native Hawaiian families; and
8

9 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian communities have expressed concern
10 that cultural needs are not being given the importance that they
11 should, with regard to the placement of children in custody
12 proceedings; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the State should adopt a policy to protect the
15 cultural and traditional interests of native Hawaiian children
16 and promote the stability and security of native Hawaiian
17 families; and
18

19 WHEREAS, such a policy should include standards for the
20 removal of native Hawaiian children from their families and the
21 placement of these children in hanai or lawe hanai homes that
22 will reflect the unique values of native Hawaiian culture; and
23

24 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians should be provided assistance in
25 navigating child and family service programs; and
26

27 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 1895, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2008,
28 provides the framework for the Native Hawaiian Child Welfare
29 Act, which establishes custody proceedings for native Hawaiian
30 children; now, therefore,
31



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
3 that DHS is requested to convene a task force to determine the
4 feasibility of implementing the provisions of Part I of H.B. No.
5 1895, H.D. 1; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to include in
8 the task force, representatives of the following:

- 9
10 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
11
12 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
13
14 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
15
16 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
17
18 (5) The Department of the Attorney General;
19
20 (6) Honolulu Community Action Program - Leeward District;
21
22 (7) Na Kupuna O Waianae;
23
24 (8) The Legacy Coalition;
25
26 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana; and
27
28 (10) Any other individuals or organizations DHS deems
29 necessary;

30
31 and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is also requested to
34 conduct a one-year pilot project based on Part III of H.B. No.
35 1895, H.D. 1, which requires a pilot project of no more than 25
36 cases handled in accordance with procedures set forth in the
37 bill; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a
40 report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed
41 legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than 20 days
42 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and
43



S. R. NO. 69

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.
3
4
5

OFFERED BY: *Therese Chun Oalland*

