

FEB 02 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO MAKE APPROPRIATE  
EXEMPTIONS FOR GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN TO  
REMAIN IN SENIOR HOUSING UNTIL SUITABLE HOUSING IS  
OBTAINED.

1           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, multi-generational living is common for  
2 cultural, social, and financial reasons; and

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4           WHEREAS, sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances or  
5 family crisis beyond their control, grandparents become  
6 caregivers, and in some cases legal guardian, of their  
7 grandchildren; and

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9           WHEREAS, according to the American Association of Retired  
10 Persons, in 2007, more than fourteen thousand grandparents in  
11 Hawaii reported that they are responsible for grandchildren who  
12 live with them; and

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14           WHEREAS, because many grandparents are seniors who have  
15 limited or fixed incomes, trying to raise a grandchild increases  
16 an already challenging financial situation for these  
17 grandparents; and

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19           WHEREAS, the cost of raising a child in the western region  
20 of the United States, based on 2007 estimates by the United  
21 States Department of Agriculture, ranges between \$8,870 and  
22 \$18,510 annually; and

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24           WHEREAS, Hawaii's housing market is one of the costliest in  
25 the nation, providing few options for seniors who often have  
26 limited incomes; and

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28           WHEREAS, many seniors look to senior housing programs  
29 because the unique restrictions on these programs make such  
30 housing more affordable; and



# S.C.R. NO. 6

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WHEREAS, federal and state law both allow housing authorities to legally exclude families with children from senior housing programs; and

WHEREAS, consequently, grandparents, as sole or primary caregivers of a grandchild, must compete with other younger parents for affordable family housing because children are not allowed to reside in senior housing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that all public and private senior housing agencies are requested to identify all residents who are sole or primary caretakers for a grandchild; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each agency is requested to make appropriate exemptions in policies, procedures, and house rules to allow seniors who provide sole or primary care for one or more grandchildren to remain in their rental unit until more suitable housing is obtained; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, the Executive Director of the Office on Aging, the Hawaii Field Office Director of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Executive Director of the American Association of Retired Persons.

OFFERED BY:

*Norman Sotomayor*

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