
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, due to unforeseen circumstances or family crises
5 beyond their control, grandparents sometimes become caregivers,
6 and in some cases legal guardians, of their grandchildren; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, federal and state law both allow housing
2 authorities to legally exclude families with children from
3 senior housing programs; and
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5 WHEREAS, consequently, grandparents, as sole or primary
6 caregivers of a grandchild, must compete with other, younger
7 parents for affordable family housing because children are not
8 allowed to reside in senior housing; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that all public and private
13 senior housing agencies are requested to identify all residents
14 who are sole or primary caretakers for a grandchild; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each agency is requested to
17 make appropriate exemptions in policies, procedures, and house
18 rules to allow seniors who provide sole or primary care for one
19 or more grandchildren to remain in their rental unit until more
20 suitable housing is obtained; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
24 Services, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing
25 Authority, the Executive Director of the Executive Office on
26 Aging, the Hawaii Field Office Director of the United States
27 Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Executive
28 Director of the American Association of Retired Persons.