

MAR 05 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE FAMILY COURT LEGAL
INTERVENTIONS WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED IN 2007 BY SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 10, S.D. 1 (2007).

1 WHEREAS, in the 2004 Regular Session, the Senate adopted
2 Senate Resolution No. 40, S.D. 2, authorizing the Senate
3 Committee on Human Services to convene interim hearings on the
4 Hawaii Family Court; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the interim hearings were designed to explore ways
7 to make the Hawaii Family Court more accessible and family
8 oriented and focused on important issues relating to reduction
9 in caseload; and
10

11 WHEREAS, while some of the recommendations were adopted and
12 received legislative attention, a number of issues remained
13 unresolved; and
14

15 WHEREAS, to continue work on the unresolved issues, in the
16 2006 Regular Session, the Senate and the House of
17 Representatives adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52,
18 S.D. 1, authorizing the Committees on Human Services of the
19 Senate and the House of Representatives to convene interim
20 hearings on the use of legal interventions available to the
21 Family Court and to establish one or more task forces to
22 facilitate their work; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the SCR 52 Task Force was established for that
25 purpose, and continued to work on these critical issues through
26 its four committees: Family Court Models, Family Court Sunshine
27 and Accountability, Temporary Restraining Orders, and the Best
28 Interests of the Child; and
29

30 WHEREAS, while the Committees on Human Services of the
31 Senate and the House of Representatives adopted many of the
32 recommendations, further concerns required additional study; and
33

34 WHEREAS, in the 2007 Regular Session, the Senate adopted
35 Senate Resolution No. 10, S.D. 1, which authorized the Senate



1 Committee on Human Services and Public Housing to convene the
2 Family Court Legal Interventions Working Group to further study
3 the outstanding recommendations of the four committees; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Family Court Legal Interventions Working Group
6 has successfully pursued legislation supporting the best
7 interests of children involved in custody determinations, and
8 has identified additional recommendations that would further
9 protect Hawaii's children; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Working Group and its three subcommittees,
12 Best Interests of the Child/Family Court Models, Sunshine and
13 Accountability, and Temporary Restraining Orders, have
14 identified issues that require further review and consideration;
15 and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Family Court Legal Interventions Working Group
18 shall cease to exist on January 1, 2009; now, therefore,
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
22 that the Family Court Legal Interventions Working Group
23 established in 2007 through Senate Resolution No. 10, S.D. 1, is
24 requested to continue its work for one additional year and cease
25 to exist on January 1, 2010; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Social
28 Sciences Public Policy Center continue to assist the Family
29 Court Legal Interventions Working Group with the facilitation of
30 the group's efforts; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Family Court Legal
33 Interventions Working Group submit a final report, including any
34 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
35 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,
39 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director of Human
40 Services, Director of Health, President of the Board of
41 Directors of the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family
42 Therapists, Chair of the Family Law Section, President of the
43 Hawaii State Bar Association, Executive Director of the Hawaii
44 Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, President



1 of the Children's Rights Council of Hawaii, President of the
2 Hawaii Coalition for Dads, President of the Legal Aid Society of
3 Hawaii, Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii,
4 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against
5 Domestic Violence, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence
6 Action Center, President of the Board of Directors of the
7 Mediation Center of the Pacific, Director of EPIC Ohana
8 Conferencing, President of the Hawaii Psychological Association,
9 Family Justice Alliance, VOICES, the Commission on the Status of
10 Women, University of Hawaii Social Sciences Public Policy
11 Center, Honolulu Family Court Professionals, and the Chief
12 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

13
14
15

OFFERED BY:

Maame Chun Akilana
Carol Fuimaga

