

JAN 21 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOUSING AGENCIES TO AFFORD ELDERLY TENANTS IN PUBLIC AND SENIOR HOUSING WHO HAVE UNEXPECTEDLY BECOME THE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN-IN-CRISIS A REASONABLE TIME TO FIND APPROPRIATE HOUSING BEFORE THEY MAY BE EVICTED.

1 WHEREAS, in the process of life sometimes unforeseen
2 circumstances or family crises beyond one's control result in a
3 situation where grandparents become the caregivers or legal
4 guardians of their grandchildren-in-crisis; and
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6 WHEREAS, Act 220, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, established
7 a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force to focus on the
8 needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force
11 found that grandparents caring for grandchildren experience
12 difficulties finding adequate housing; and
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14 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, natural processes and cultural
15 practices are accepted, respected, and practiced when a
16 grandparent cares for a grandchild-in-crisis, as documented in
17 *The 2007 Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*
18 (Assessment) prepared by the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
19 Department of Family and Consumer Science; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Assessment reports that over 14,000
22 grandparents are primary caregivers for over 33,000
23 grandchildren in the State of Hawaii, and that these
24 grandparents are playing an important part in ensuring the
25 well-being of children in Hawaii and are also saving the State
26 approximately \$17,000,000 per month by caring for their
27 grandchildren outside the foster care system; and
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29 WHEREAS, seniors who have limited or fixed incomes and who
30 live in government-funded public housing or senior housing could
31 suddenly find themselves caring for grandchildren-in-crisis who
32 are minors and in need of immediate care, shelter, and food; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's housing market is one of the costliest in
2 the nation, providing few options for seniors living on limited
3 incomes; and
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5 WHEREAS, a senior who lives in a public or senior housing
6 on a limited income may not be able to immediately find housing
7 to accommodate a grandchild, and may have to apply for a
8 suitable public housing unit that entails being placed on a
9 waitlist, a situation that forces the grandparent to continue to
10 live in the same unit in possible violation of housing policies
11 and rules; and
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13 WHEREAS, current federal and state laws exempt certain
14 senior housing complexes from housing discrimination laws
15 intended to protect families with children, and accordingly,
16 grandparents may be evicted for allowing a grandchild under the
17 age of eighteen to live with them; and
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19 WHEREAS, federal and state laws allow housing authorities
20 and managers of public housing complexes to change policy and
21 house rules to make exceptions for seniors who need to find new
22 housing; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force
25 strongly recommended to the Kupuna Caucus and the Joint
26 Legislative Committee on Aging in Place and Family Caregiving
27 that general awareness be raised about the plight of
28 grandparents raising grandchildren-in-crisis in senior housing,
29 particularly the need to allow grandparents more time to find
30 new housing; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
34 that all public and private housing agencies that receive
35 government funding are requested to make appropriate exemptions
36 in their respective policies to allow tenants who are seniors to
37 keep grandchildren-in-crisis with them in their units for a
38 reasonable period of time until suitable housing is obtained to
39 accommodate the grandchildren; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that housing officials are requested
42 to waive house rules and avoid sending eviction notices to
43 eligible seniors who unexpectedly become the primary caregivers



1 to their grandchildren-in-crisis to allow affected grandparents
2 a reasonable time period to find appropriate housing; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that housing officials are
5 requested, as a proactive approach to affording relief, to
6 identify affected grandparents; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Hawaii Field
10 Office Director of the United States Department of Housing and
11 Urban Development; the Director of Human Services; the Director
12 of the Executive Office on Aging; Executive Director of the
13 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Executive
14 Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Executive
15 Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority; Housing
16 Administrator of the Hawaii County Office of Housing and
17 Community Development; Executive on Housing of the County of
18 Kauai Housing Agency; Director of the Department of Housing and
19 Human Concerns of the County of Maui; the President of Big
20 Island Housing Foundation; the President of Seawind Realty Inc.;
21 General Partners of Kekaha Plantation Housing Partnership; the
22 Director of Lokelani Hale; the Director of Piilani Housing; the
23 Oahu County Manager of Prudential Locations LLC, Property
24 Management Division; the Director of Hawaiian Properties, Ltd.;
25 the President of Bob Tanaka, Inc; the Director of St. Francis
26 Healthcare System of Hawaii; the Director of the CBM Group,
27 Inc.; the Director of Century 21 Realty Specialists Corporation;
28 the Director of Cambridge Management, Inc.; the Director of
29 Hawaiiana Management Company; General Partners of Kulana Hale;
30 the Chairperson of Housing Solutions Incorporated; Members of
31 Realty Laua LLC; the Director of Nana'ikeola Senior Apartments,
32 Inc.; the Chair and President of Retirement Housing Foundation;
33 General Partners of Senior Residence at Iwilei; the Director of
34 EAH, Inc.; the Director of Whitmore Circle
35 Apartments; the Executive Vice President of Apartment Investment
36 and Management Company; and the Executive Director of AARP.
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