

SCR6



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 13, 2009

To: Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Education & Housing

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Mahealani Cypher, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Subject: S.C.R.6, Requesting Public and Private Agencies to Make Appropriate Exemptions for Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren to Remain in Senior Housing until Suitable Housing is Obtained

Aloha mai kakou from the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, working with nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe Bay, moku Ko`olaupoko, O`ahu.

Our civic club supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, which would make it possible for our kupuna to care for their grandchildren while residing in senior housing. Our kupuna serve as valuable safety nets for our keiki, and should not be punished if they come forward to provide a safe haven for these children who have been traumatized by circumstances beyond their control.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana`o.

P. O. Box 664
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph. (808) 235-8111
koolaupokohcc.org

From: [Patty Paranada](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2009 10:25:53 AM
Attachments: [Times have surely changed.doc](#)

In support for: SCR6: regarding public and private agencies to make appropriate exemptions for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to remain in Senior Housing until suitable is obtained. Attached is my two-page write-up. Mahalo!

Patty Paranada

Outreach Family Assessment Worker

Maui Family Support Services

1844 Wili Pa Loop

Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

phone: (808)242-0900

fax: (808)249-2800

email: patty@mfss.org

The Mission of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths. The Prime Directive is to utilize our collective resources toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is intended only for the use of the addressee. It may contain information which is privileged or confidential under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the agent of the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender at

Times have surely changed. Statistics show that more and more grandparents today, are either caregiving or raising their grandchildren. There are more one parent households, one or both parents are incarcerated, one or both parents are abusing drugs, one or both parents have health-related issues, and the list goes on. Grandparents are stepping in or in some cases are forced into taking on the responsibilities of “parenting the 2nd time around.” Being close to or even at the retirement age, is a very delicate time for us grandparents. Unfortunately, these are the most delicate years, when our bodies are not working in the most functional way. Some grandparents are facing health problems, don’t drive anymore, living on a fixed income, and simply suffering mental, emotional, and again physical issues. **Housing may also be a challenge for grandparents that live in Senior Housing. Through no fault of their own, I believe that these grandparents should be allowed to reside in their Senior Housing regardless of their situations where their grandchildren are concerned. It’s hard enough to face the reality of parenting again, and then to be forced to look for another place for them to live, would be difficult.**

R.O.K.K. (Raising Our Keikis Keiki) was especially designed to offer support and encouragement to Grandparents caregiving or raising their Grandchildren. It is a comfortable, relaxed-style, support group, where grandparents can come and share their stories and also know that they are not alone. **In addition to support and resources, MFSS uses evidenced - based curricula to assist grandparents with every day challenges of of raising thier grandchildren including how to help grandchildren make healthy Choices, positive discipline and parenting skills, giving grandparent skills to prevent, identify and get appropriate intervention for children who are using drugs and alcohol, etc.** We talk story, share, and learn from each other. The group shares community resources, discuss topics of interest regarding GRG. It’s a safe and fun place for grandparents and their grandkids to come and enjoy great food, relaxation, and good friends. We laugh, we cry, we feel good whenever we leave our group, knowing that we have each other to share all our challenges and all our joys. PARENTING THE 2ND TIME AROUND is a great challenge! Grandchildren can be a joy, even if we can’t give them back.

IN SUPPORT

Providing Testimony for the Record

To the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing, Committee on Education and Housing, scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2009, 2:00 PM, in Conference Room 225.

From Patricia Urieff, MSW, Licensed Social Worker with thirty years of experience working with children and their families; parent; and grandparent.

Regarding SCR 6 REQUESTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO MAKE APPROPRIATE EXEMPTIONS FOR GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN TO REMAIN IN SENIOR HOUSING UNTIL SUITABLE HOUSING IS OBTAINED.

The 2007 Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (for the Legislature) shows that over 14,000 GRG are primary caregivers for over 33,000 grandchildren in the Hawaii State and they save the state approximately 17 million dollars per month by caring for their grandchildren outside the foster care system.

Whenever a child-is-in-crisis because the parents can not or will not keep the child safe and provide care, in those cases when the child knows the grandparents and the grandparents want to provide care, they provide an important part in ensuring well-being of the children. In the process, grandparents experience “meaningful work”.

Barriers should not continue to exist because the managers of senior public and private housing made house rules that result in Eviction Notices to seniors coping with crisis.

Managers who send Eviction Notices to eligible seniors coping with a grandchild in crisis may be acting to please other seniors who want to live in apartment buildings where there are no children. Taxpayers support Public Senior Housing. Taxpayers want grandparents to take care of the grandchild-in-crisis rather let the child go to state foster care at a price of \$529 per child per month – provided by tax payers.

In the natural unfolding of life, family members live together. It is natural for grandparents care for grandchildren-in-crisis. What is unnatural is that today’s seniors live in Senior Housing that doesn’t allow children. Managers need to make exemptions for financially needy seniors who can not move out immediately or soon after. In addition, managers have expertise that could help grandparents find another affordable housing situation.