

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State can  
2 increase the effectiveness of the State's child support program  
3 by clarifying the liability of grandparents in accordance with  
4 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation  
5 Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105, also known as the  
6 Welfare Reform Act.

7           Teenage parents make up the majority of welfare recipients  
8 and consume the majority of welfare benefits. The legislature  
9 finds that welfare should be reoriented from an attitude of  
10 "entitlement" to an emphasis upon the transition of recipients  
11 from welfare dependence to family support.

12           The legislature recognizes the role of family, specifically  
13 grandparents, in holding teenage parents accountable for child  
14 rearing and for training the teenage parents in proper  
15 parenting. The support of children should primarily be from  
16 their family in order to strengthen familial bonds. The family,  
17 specifically grandparents, may help the minor parents with and  
18 encourage participation in completing high school and collegiate



1 education, job training, employment, and early childhood  
2 education programs that could benefit the child's well being and  
3 reduce the odds of dependency in the next generation.

4 Thus, the legislature finds that both sets of grandparents  
5 of the minor children with a child shall be fiscally responsible  
6 for the minor children and grandchild.

7 To date, at least thirteen states have enacted a statute  
8 that provides for such grandparent liability for child support.  
9 Some of the statutes were enacted in the wake of 42 United  
10 States Code section 666(a)(18), and limit liability of  
11 grandparents to those cases where the parents of the child are  
12 minors and the custodial parent is receiving public assistance.  
13 Other states have statutes that predate the Welfare Reform Act,  
14 and are modeled more along the lines of the Elizabethan Poor  
15 Laws. The legislatures of the thirteen states are: Arizona,  
16 Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, North  
17 Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota,  
18 Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 576D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1        "§576D-        Child support obligations of grandparents. The  
2 parents of a minor mother or minor father shall be required to  
3 contribute to the support of their grandchild according to their  
4 financial means until they are no longer legally responsible to  
5 support the minor mother or minor father or upon both the minor  
6 mother and minor father becoming emancipated."

7        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9

INTRODUCED BY: *JM Smith*  
*By Regan*

JAN 18 2013



# H.B. NO. 340

**Report Title:**

Grandparents; Grandchildren; Child Support

**Description:**

Requires the parents of a minor mother or minor father to contribute to the support of their grandchild.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

