
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE VISITATION RIGHTS FOR GRANDPARENTS AND HANAI INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INFORMALLY RAISING THESE CHILDREN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Silver Legislature finds that in
2 Hawaii, there are approximately 14,000 grandparents and hanai
3 individuals who are raising grandchildren, that is, grandparents
4 and hanai individuals who are parenting for a second time
5 because the child's biological parents are unable to do so due
6 to circumstances such as incarceration, substance abuse,
7 divorce, death, or deployment. Many grandparents and hanai
8 individuals raise these children informally without having
9 Family Court or the Department of Human Service's Child
10 Protective Services intervene. When the child is subsequently
11 returned to their biological parent, the parent often prevents
12 the grandparent and hanai individual from any visitation
13 privileges.

14 Grandparents and hanai individuals have no legal mechanism
15 to visit the child that they raised when the biological parents
16 were unable or unwilling to do so, and therefore, the purpose of
17 this Act is to establish a task force to determine visitation

1 rights, if any, for grandparents and hanai individuals who are
2 informally raising these children.

3 SECTION 2. There is established during the 2006
4 Legislative Interim a Joint Legislative Task Force to determine
5 visitation rights, if any, for grandparents and hanai
6 individuals who are informally raising these children. The Task
7 Force shall submit their recommendations and any proposed
8 legislation twenty days prior to the convening of the 2007
9 Regular Session.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.