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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO RECONSIDER ITS REORGANIZATION PLAN FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII TO ELIMINATE ITS CHILD WELFARE SERVICES OFFICES IN KAU, KAMUELA, AND CAPTAIN COOK.

1           WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Department of Human  
2 Services states, in conjunction with child welfare services,  
3 that, "Our committed staff strives, day-in and day-out, to  
4 provide timely, efficient and effective programs, services and  
5 benefits, for the purpose of achieving the outcome of empowering  
6 those who are the most vulnerable in our State to expand their  
7 capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence,  
8 healthy choices, quality of life and personal dignity"; and  
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10           WHEREAS, child welfare services has provided timely,  
11 efficient, and effective programs on the Big Island in the  
12 communities of Hilo, Kau, Kamuela, Captain Cook, and Kona; and  
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14           WHEREAS, child welfare services has announced the closure  
15 of the Kau, Kamuela, and Captain Cook offices; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the closure of these three offices will seriously  
18 hamper the accessibility of child welfare services in several  
19 communities, including Oceanview, Naalehu, Pahala, Honalo,  
20 Kainaliu, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Hookena, Milolii, Kamuela,  
21 Hawi, and Halaula; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the closure of these three offices will present a  
24 hardship for the populations served, as it will necessitate  
25 having to travel up to fifty miles to the Kona office on roads  
26 that are often congested and unsafe and on routes where public  
27 transportation is marginal; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the closure of these offices contradicts the  
30 stated mission, goals, and objectives of the Department of Human  
31 Services; now, therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 3 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 4 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human  
 5 Services is urged to reconsider its reorganization plan for the  
 6 Big Island that eliminates child welfare services offices in  
 7 Kau, Kamuela, and Captain Cook; and

8  
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
 10 Services is urged to work with its staff, the community, and the  
 11 Legislature to resolve any logistics or financial problems that  
 12 may endanger the continued provision of services from these  
 13 offices; and

14  
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
 17 Director of Human Services, the Mayor and county council  
 18 chairperson of the County of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the  
 19 Standing Committee on Human Services of the Senate, and the  
 20 Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Services of the  
 21 House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY:

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MAR 15 2006

