
HOUSE 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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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2006, that the Department of Human Services is urged to
 4 reconsider its reorganization plan for the Big Island that
 5 eliminates child welfare services offices in Kau, Kamuela, and
 6 Captain Cook; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 9 Services is urged to work with its staff, the community, and the
 10 Legislature to resolve any logistics or financial problems that
 11 may endanger the continued provision of services from these
 12 offices; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Human
 16 Services, the Mayor and county council chairperson of the County
 17 of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human
 18 Services of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Standing
 19 Committee on Human Services of the House of Representatives.
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OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans
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