HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO SUPPORT PROJECT CUDDLE AND ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF ADVERTISING ITS HOTLINE.

WHEREAS, Project Cuddle is recognized as a successful, 1 safe, and legal alternative to abandonment of babies; and 2 3 4 WHEREAS, Project Cuddle is the result of one woman's 5 crusade to help prevent infants from being abandoned; and 6 7 WHEREAS, Project Cuddle instituted a 24-hour toll-free 8 crisis hotline: 1-88-TO-CUDDLE; and 9 10 WHEREAS, when a crisis call is received, Project Cuddle institutes various means of helping the baby such as finding an 11 attorney, a family wanting to rescue and adopt the baby, as well 12 as an obstetrician, hospital and social counselor; and 13 14 WHEREAS, Project Cuddle was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) 15 16 non-profit charity in 1994; and 17 WHEREAS, a volunteer Board of Directors oversees the 18 organization, which operates on a day-to-day basis with the 19 assistance of volunteers and a minimal-paid staff; and 20 21 WHEREAS, statistics indicate that 57 babies are abandoned 22 every day, and these are only the ones that are found; and 23 24 WHEREAS, approximately 20,000 babies are abandoned every 25 year; and 26 27 WHEREAS, since its founding, Project Cuddle has 28 successfully saved hundreds of babies from being abandoned; and 29

1 2

5

 WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of the girls and women raise their babies with the help of Project Cuddle, which works with the parents of the mothers and finds them shelter; and

WHEREAS, Project Cuddle is based in Orange County, California and has volunteers all over the United States and Canada that help publicize its toll-free number; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is a noble and appropriate alternative to abandonment to support Project Cuddle; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human Services (DHS) is urged to support Project Cuddle and to assess the feasibility of advertising its toll-free number to provide an alternative to women, and friends and relatives of women, who are considering abandoning a baby; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

HCR344 HD1 HMS 2007-3509