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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS' CONVENTION ON THE  
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AS A GUIDELINE FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS  
RELATED TO HAWAII'S KEIKI.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaiian culture, the family is the central  
2 aspect of society as expressed by the concept of ohana, and the  
3 responsibilities and privileges of parenting, guardianship, and  
4 advocacy for children are opportunities to enable a child's life  
5 to be meaningful; and  
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7 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the sustainability of the culture of  
8 ohana is dependent upon making a child's safety and well-being a  
9 priority when making decisions for development, transportation,  
10 economic prosperity, or environmental wellness; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the principles of the Charter of the United  
13 Nations affirm that the recognition of the inherent dignity and  
14 the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human  
15 family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the  
16 world; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration  
19 of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,  
20 has affirmed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and  
21 freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,  
22 such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other  
23 opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other  
24 status; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration  
27 of Human Rights, has proclaimed that each child is entitled to  
28 special care and assistance; and



1 WHEREAS, the family, as the fundamental unit of society and  
2 the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its  
3 members and particularly children, should be afforded the  
4 necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume  
5 its responsibilities with the community; and

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7 WHEREAS, each child, for the full and harmonious  
8 development of the child's personality, should grow up in a  
9 family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and  
10 understanding; and

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12 WHEREAS, to be fully prepared to participate as a member of  
13 society, each child needs to be brought up in the spirit of the  
14 ideals of the United Nations Charter, especially in the spirit  
15 of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality, and solidarity;  
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, on November 20, 1989, the United Nations General  
19 Assembly adopted the Convention of the Rights of the Child; and

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21 WHEREAS, 192 nations have entered as signatories to the  
22 Convention of the Rights of the Child; and

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24 WHEREAS, the preamble to the State of Hawaii Constitution  
25 proclaims that the State of Hawaii is dedicated to the  
26 fulfillment of the State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka  
27 pono," meaning, "The life of the land is perpetuated in  
28 righteousness"; and

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30 WHEREAS, to protect, nurture, and care for our keiki is an  
31 underlying principle for Hawaii as a Pacific Island community;  
32 and

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34 WHEREAS, 13 percent of all Hawaii's children live in  
35 poverty; and

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37 WHEREAS, 21 percent of the homeless are children age nine  
38 or younger, and one out of three are age 17 or younger; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Convention on the Rights of the Child  
41 contributes to awareness of the problems of children in Hawaii  
42 and around the world; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature  
4 urges the State of Hawaii to adopt the United Nations'  
5 Convention on the Rights of the Child as a guideline addressing  
6 concerns relating to Hawaii's keiki; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the  
9 President to request that Congress ratify the Convention on the  
10 Rights of the Child; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
14 United States, the Governor, Attorney General, Director of  
15 Finance, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health,  
16 Director of Human Services, Director of Public Safety, and the  
17 Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

