HOUSE 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 WHEREAS, Project Cuddle is the result of one woman's 4 crusade to help prevent infants from being abandoned; and 5 6 WHEREAS, Project Cuddle instituted a 24-hour toll-free 7 8 crisis hotline; and 9 WHEREAS, when a crisis call is received, Project Cuddle 10 institutes 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 non-profit charity in 1994; and 16 17 WHEREAS, a volunteer Board of Directors oversees the 18 organization, which Debbe Magnusen runs on a day-to-day basis 19 with the assistance of volunteers and a minimal paid staff; and 20 21 WHEREAS, statistics indicate that fifty-seven children are 22 abandoned everyday, and these are only the ones that are found; 23 and 24 25 WHEREAS, since its founding, Project Cuddle has 26 successfully saved hundreds of babies from being abandoned; and 27 28 WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of the girls and women

raise their babies with the help of Project Cuddle who works

with the parents of the mothers and find them shelter; and

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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 in that area; 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, that the Department of Human Services is urged to support Project Cuddle and to assess the feasibility of advertising its toll-free number so that women and friends and relatives of women who are considering abandoning a baby may have an alternative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is requested to report findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature twenty days before the start of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate.

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OFFERED BY.

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