

JAN 23 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF MALAMA O KAMALI'I MAKAMAE'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH STATE-OF-THE-ART CARE FACILITIES AND REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CARE FACILITIES.

1           WHEREAS, in July 2003, the federal Department of Health and  
2 Human Services (DHHS) conducted a Child and Family Services  
3 Review (Review), in which they found that Hawaii's Department of  
4 Human Services (DHS) did not meet the federal standards in six  
5 out of the seven welfare outcome areas and five of the seven  
6 systemic factors; and

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8           WHEREAS, the outcome of the DHHS Review could have  
9 subjected the State to a \$1,900,000 penalty, but this was  
10 reduced to \$170,978 due to the achievement of the two-year  
11 Program Improvement Plan goals, in all but two areas; and

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13           WHEREAS, based on the 2003 DHHS Review, some of the key  
14 areas in which DHS needed improvement were:

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16           (1) Providing a timely response to child abuse and neglect  
17 reports;  
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19           (2) Taking action to protect children from the risk of  
20 harm on active cases;  
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22           (3) Reducing the incidence of re-entry into foster care  
23 and increasing the stability in foster placement; and  
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25           (4) Implementing quality assurance monitoring and  
26 continuous system improvement;

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28 and

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30           WHEREAS, finding that children of substance abusing parents  
31 are three times more likely to be abused and four times more

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1 likely to be neglected, the 2004 Joint House-Senate Task Force  
2 on Ice and Drug Abatement recommended the development of a drug  
3 endangered child protection program; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, to protect the safety and welfare of children:

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7 (1) The federal Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997  
8 requires children to be permanently placed after 15  
9 months in foster care, terminating the birth parents'  
10 rights; and

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12 (2) The federal Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994, as  
13 amended in 1996, prohibits the delaying of permanent  
14 placement of children to find an ethnic match,  
15 allowing native Hawaiian children to be sent out of  
16 the state for permanent placement with non-Hawaiian  
17 households;

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19 and

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21 WHEREAS, in 2005, DHS reported in its "Child Abuse and  
22 Neglect Report" that over 40 percent of children harmed in  
23 Hawaii were Hawaiian or part Hawaiian; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the 2005 "Ka Huaka'i Native Hawaiian Educational  
26 Assessment Report" (2005 Assessment Report) states that:

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28 (1) Academic disparities are pronounced in rural regions  
29 with high concentrations of native Hawaiians; and

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31 (2) Native Hawaiian students are being referred to special  
32 education at a more rapidly escalating rate (18.5  
33 percent) than their non-Hawaiian peers;

34  
35 and

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37 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) reported that in  
38 2005, 47 percent of native Hawaiian children in the fourth grade  
39 scored below the basic reading level, 27 percent scored below  
40 the basic math level, and 43 percent scored below the basic  
41 science level; and



1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) reported that  
2 between 2001 and 2006, 57.2 percent of suicides were by  
3 Hawaiians or part Hawaiians; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the 2005 Assessment Report states that native  
6 Hawaiian adolescents suffer higher rates of depression (34.5  
7 percent versus 27.9 percent) and are more likely to attempt  
8 suicide (22.6 percent versus 20.0 percent) than their non-  
9 Hawaiian peers; and  
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11 WHEREAS, Malama O Kamali'i Makamae (Protect and Honor Our  
12 Precious Children), a nonprofit organization, was organized to  
13 develop and operate state-of-the-art care facilities throughout  
14 the State of Hawaii for disadvantaged native Hawaiian and other  
15 needy children whose physical, emotional, mental, social, and  
16 educational well-being is threatened--children crucial to the  
17 preservation of the Na Kamali'i O Hawaii Nei; and  
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19 WHEREAS, in 2004, the Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent  
20 Resolution No. 189, recognizing the importance of this mission  
21 and supported Malama O Kamali'i Makamae's efforts to develop  
22 state-of-the-art emergency care and learning facilities for  
23 endangered and disadvantaged children of Hawaiian ancestry; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, Malama O Kamali'i Makamae's care facilities have  
26 been designed to offer the needed protective and preventative  
27 measures for saving children, including native Hawaiian children  
28 who are victims of adult caregivers' abuse, neglect, and self-  
29 destruction; and  
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31 WHEREAS, Malama O Kamali'i Makamae's care facilities, with  
32 the assistance of the native Hawaiian communities, will:  
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- 34 (1) Provide a wellness safe haven for at-risk native  
35 Hawaiian children;
- 36  
37 (2) Promote health, nutrition, education, and cultural  
38 identity;
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40 (3) Begin the healing journey in the children's short- or  
41 long-term care needs in the Hawaiian cultural hanai  
42 ohana style program without losing them to federal  
43 mandate requirements; and



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(4) Preserve native Hawaiian children in their homeland  
for future native Hawaiian nation-building;

now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
that this body continues to express its support of Malama O  
Kamali'i Makamae's efforts to establish state-of-the-art care  
facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE, DOH, and DHS are requested  
to apply its funds to assist Malama O Kamali'i Makamae in the  
establishment of its care facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Education,  
Health, Human Services, Land and Natural Resources, and Hawaiian  
Home Lands, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs are requested to  
assist Malama O Kamali'i Makamae in acquiring suitable lands for  
the development of its care facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendant of the Board of  
Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services,  
Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the  
Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and  
Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY: *Enzamu Chun Okalana*

