
SENATE RESOLUTION

CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOLS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR
FIRST RESPONDERS IN CHILD PROTECTIVE AWARENESS SKILLS.

1 WHEREAS, according to Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, nearly
2 6,000 suspected cases of child abuse are reported in Hawaii each
3 year; and
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5 WHEREAS, child abuse can take the form of physical injury,
6 sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment; and
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8 WHEREAS, first responders, including police officers,
9 members of the fire department, and emergency medical personnel
10 have the unique duty of responding to a wide variety of
11 situations in which children may be found who are the victims of
12 or who are at risk for child abuse; and
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14 WHEREAS, all first responders must be able to identify
15 children who may be victims of or who are at risk for abuse in
16 order to be prepared to set the proper protective protocols in
17 motion; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
21 that the Department of Human Services shall convene a task force
22 to establish protocols and training programs for first
23 responders, including, but not limited to, the county police
24 departments, the sheriffs and other law enforcement agencies,
25 the fire department, and emergency medical personnel, to use
26 when coming into contact with children who may be the victims of
27 or who are at risk for child abuse; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such training and protocols may
30 include a mechanism through which confidential information from
31 child protective services may be accessed by a first responder
32 if necessary and appropriate to ensure a child's safety and
33 well-being; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such training and protocols
2 shall be developed in collaboration with the respective first
3 responder groups; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
6 Services shall report back to the Legislature on the status of
7 development and the estimated cost of implementation of the
8 protocols and training programs no later than twenty days prior
9 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, and each year
10 thereafter for three years; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to avoid duplication,
13 if House Bill No. 2596, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, is enacted into law in
14 the current legislative session, the task force described by
15 this measure is requested to be incorporated into the task force
16 required by that Act; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
20 Health, the Director of Human Services, the Administrator of
21 Child Protective Services, the Chief of Police of each county,
22 the state Sheriff, the Fire Chief of each county, the Chief of
23 the Harbor Police, and the Director of the Division of
24 Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

