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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARENT  
CLIENTS TO TURN ON CLOSED CAPTIONING WHEN THEIR CHILDREN  
WATCH TELEVISION.

1           WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, two-  
2 thirds of infants, toddlers, and children under the age of six  
3 watch an average of two hours of television while kids and teens  
4 from seven to eighteen years old spend nearly four hours a day  
5 in front of a television screen; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, television has replaced the time children spend  
8 reading books, causing agencies such as the National Education  
9 Association to take action; and

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11           WHEREAS, in 1998 the National Education Association started  
12 the "Read Across America" program in an effort to motivate  
13 children to read instead of watching television or playing video  
14 games; and

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16           WHEREAS, while television opens up new worlds of  
17 entertainment and information to children with pictures and  
18 sound capturing their attention, the absence of a reading  
19 component restricts this medium as a learning tool; and

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21           WHEREAS, while originally developed for the deaf and hard  
22 of hearing, closed captioning also has the capability of helping  
23 anyone learn by bringing reading to television; and

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25           WHEREAS, in 1986, researchers Koskinen, Wilson, and Jensema  
26 noted:

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28           "Captions are reading material. They can turn television  
29 into a moving story book, a steady stream of written  
30 language presented with both video and audio reinforcement.  
31 Viewers can see words on the screen, hear them spoken, and



1 see them put into visual context. One of the most exciting  
2 potential applications of closed captioning is its use as  
3 an educational tool."; and  
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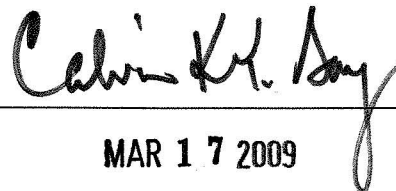
5 WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the  
6 ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association,  
7 and spelling; and  
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9 WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by  
10 the television industry, and most televisions purchased after  
11 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning;  
12 now, therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
16 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges all  
17 public and private agencies to encourage their parent clients to  
18 turn on closed captioning while their children watch television;  
19 and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
23 Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of  
24 Human Services, Chairperson of Child and Family Service,  
25 Chairperson of Catholic Charities Hawaii, Chairperson of the  
26 Partners in Development Foundation, Chairperson of Parents and  
27 Children Together, President of Hawaii Literacy, and the  
28 Executive Director of the American Association of Retired  
29 Persons.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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