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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO DETERMINE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE BOARD PAYMENT RATE FOR FOSTER  
BOARDING HOME PARENTS, GROUP HOMES, AND CHILD CARING  
INSTITUTIONS.

1           WHEREAS, the current board payment rate for foster boarding  
2 home parents, group homes, and child caring institutions in  
3 Hawaii was last set in 1990 and has not been adjusted even as  
4 the total rate of inflation since then has risen sixty-six per  
5 cent; and

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7           WHEREAS, the current monthly board payment rate of \$529 for  
8 each child regardless of age is insufficient to raise a child  
9 because costs for food, housing, utilities, clothing, and other  
10 necessities have increased; and

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12           WHEREAS, a 2007 report published by the University of  
13 Maryland's School of Social Work concluded that most states,  
14 including Hawaii, pay foster parents far less than what middle  
15 income families customarily spend to raise their children; and

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17           WHEREAS, the University of Maryland report further  
18 indicated that Hawaii's standard foster board payment rate,  
19 undifferentiated by age, is lower by nineteen per cent, thirty-  
20 six per cent, and forty-nine per cent than the minimum adequate  
21 rate for children advocated by the Foster Parent Association for  
22 children aged two, nine, and sixteen, respectively; and

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24           WHEREAS, Hawaii continues to experience a shortage of  
25 families willing and able to provide foster care for the  
26 approximately seventeen hundred children requiring foster care  
27 in the State; and

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1 WHEREAS, the low standard foster board payment rate,  
2 undifferentiated by age, for providing foster care has made it  
3 difficult to attract and retain foster parents; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reimbursement from the federal government  
6 for foster care payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security  
7 Act with regard to the Adoption Assistance Program has not been  
8 maximized and represents an underutilized resource; now,  
9 therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Human  
14 Services is requested to determine the feasibility of gradually  
15 increasing the board payment rate for foster boarding home  
16 parents, group homes, and child caring institutions in the State  
17 over a period of five years; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services,  
20 in determining the feasibility of increasing the board payment  
21 rate, is requested to consider establishing a scaled schedule of  
22 board payment rates that take into account varying levels of  
23 difficulty in providing care to foster children of different  
24 ages within the following age ranges:  
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- 26 (1) From birth to age five;
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- 28 (2) From age six to age twelve; and
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- 30 (3) From age thirteen to time of termination from foster  
31 care; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
34 is also requested to determine the feasibility of linking future  
35 board payment rate increases to various inflation index  
36 measures, such as the Consumer Price Index; and  
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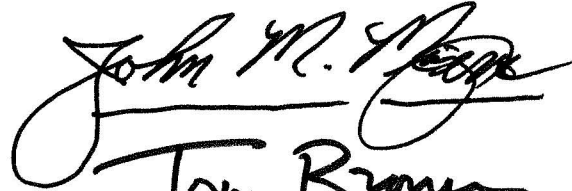
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
39 is further requested to submit findings and recommendations  
40 regarding board payment rate increases, including any necessary  
41 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than November  
42 1, 2009; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
3 Services.  
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5  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CMA", with a horizontal line underneath.

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mele Carroll", with a horizontal line underneath.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Flanagan", with a horizontal line underneath.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Brown", with a horizontal line underneath.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Bero", with a horizontal line underneath.

MAR 18 2009

