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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS "FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH", A TIME TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF FOSTER CARE, INCLUDING FOSTER PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES.

1           WHEREAS, the foster care system plays an important role in  
2 the lives of more than 500,000 children nationwide that are in  
3 foster care programs; and  
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5           WHEREAS, on average each day in the state 1,700 Hawaii  
6 children live in foster homes; and  
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8           WHEREAS, there are many difficulties faced by children in  
9 the foster care system that require a commitment to improve  
10 foster care programs; and  
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12           WHEREAS, many children in the foster care system have spent  
13 multiple years in foster care programs, experiencing an unstable  
14 home life due to frequent moves from one foster home to another;  
15 and  
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17           WHEREAS, approximately 50 percent of foster care children  
18 have been placed in foster care programs for longer than one  
19 year; and  
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21           WHEREAS, nearly a quarter of foster care children have been  
22 placed in foster care programs for at least three years; and  
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24           WHEREAS, children in foster care programs for longer  
25 periods of time often experience worse outcomes than children in  
26 foster care programs for shorter periods of time; and  
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28           WHEREAS, children in foster care programs are more likely  
29 than the general population to become teen parents, to rely on



1 public assistance as adults, to become homeless, and to  
2 experience mental health disorders at a higher rate; and  
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4 WHEREAS, repeated studies have shown that a child's very  
5 early years are crucial for brain development, making it  
6 extremely important to find suitable permanent homes for  
7 children during this critical period; and  
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9 WHEREAS, many children are eligible for adoption every year  
10 with fewer than half of the children in foster care programs  
11 actually getting adopted; and  
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13 WHEREAS, not only is a stable home critical to a child's  
14 development, but every child deserves to be raised by a loving  
15 family; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby  
20 recognizes the month of May as "Foster Care Awareness Month", a  
21 time to educate the public about the various components of  
22 foster care, including foster parents, children, and families;  
23 and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that continuing to improve the  
26 foster care system in Hawaii will remain a top priority for the  
27 Legislature; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
31 of Human Services, Director of Kokua Ohana, Executive Director  
32 of Hawaii Youth Services Network, and President of Foster Family  
33 Programs of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: John M. Nagao

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