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## HOUSE 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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29           WHEREAS, the low standard foster board payment rate,  
30 undifferentiated by age, for providing foster care has made it  
31 difficult to attract and retain foster parents; and  
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reimbursement from the federal government  
2 for foster care payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security  
3 Act with regard to the Adoption Assistance Program has not been  
4 maximized and represents an underutilized resource; now,  
5 therefore,  
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
9 of 2009, that the Director of Human Services is requested to  
10 determine the feasibility of gradually increasing the board  
11 payment rate for foster boarding home parents, group homes, and  
12 child caring institutions in the State over a period of five  
13 years; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services,  
16 in determining the feasibility of increasing the board payment  
17 rate, is requested to consider establishing a scaled schedule of  
18 board payment rates that take into account varying levels of  
19 difficulty in providing care to foster children of different  
20 ages within the following age ranges:  
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- 22 (1) From birth to age five;
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- 24 (2) From age six to age twelve; and
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- 26 (3) From age thirteen to time of termination from foster  
27 care; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
30 is also requested to determine the feasibility of linking future  
31 board payment rate increases to various inflation index  
32 measures, such as the Consumer Price Index; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
35 is further requested to submit findings and recommendations  
36 regarding board payment rate increases, including any necessary  
37 proposed legislation, to this body no later than November 1,  
38 2009; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.  
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OFFERED BY: Mele Carroll

John M. Higgins

Don Brown

May Stee

MAR 18 2009

