
HOUSE 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



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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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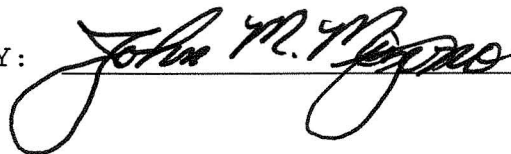
13 WHEREAS, not only is a stable home critical to a child's
14 development, but every child deserves to be raised by a loving
15 family; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2009, that this body hereby recognizes the month of May as
20 "Foster Care Awareness Month", a time to educate the public
21 about the various components of foster care, including foster
22 parents, children, and families; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that continuing to improve the
25 foster care system in Hawaii will remain a top priority for the
26 House of Representatives; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human
30 Services, Director of Kokua Ohana, Executive Director of Hawaii
31 Youth Services Network, and President of Foster Family Programs
32 of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:



JAN 27 2009

