HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND ALL AGENCIES WITH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' CONTRACTS TO UPHOLD THEIR NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDERED PERSONS

WHEREAS, in recent years, the number of hate crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons have risen; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons now constitute the third-highest category of hate crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and represent almost fourteen per cent of all hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes based on the victim's real or perceived gender, sexual preference, gender identity, or disability, hurts the community; and

WHEREAS, only a minority of states include sexual orientation in their hate crimes statutes; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the Department of Human Services and the service providers with contracts under the Department to urge its workers and recipients that it is not acceptable to discriminate against individuals because of their actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, in addition to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human Services is urged to provide information to its workers and agencies under contract regarding discrimination based on gender, sexual preference, gender identity, or disability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Governor of Hawaii, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the President of Pride at Work Hawaii, the Executive Director of Life Foundation, the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Chairman of the Family Equality Coalition, the President of the Gregory House Programs, and the Coordinator of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Student Services Office at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.