HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK".

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has 227,000 citizens with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, those citizens, who need a service dog, wait approximately 3 - 5 years for a service dog; and

WHEREAS, assistance dogs, which includes service dogs, guide dogs, hearing alert dogs and alert/seizure response dogs, transform the lives of their human partners with physical and mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, assistance dogs serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members; and

WHEREAS, recognizing these dogs, who benefit Hawaii's citizens with disabilities, will aid in raising awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in Hawaii and could benefit so many more of Hawaii's citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested to express the State's support for the contributions of service dogs to Hawaii's citizens with disabilities by proclaiming the second week of August of every year, beginning on the second week of August 2011 as "Hawaii State Assistance Dogs Week" in the State of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii and the Hawaii Humane Society.

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