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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FAMILY COURT JUDGES AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM TO BETTER RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1           WHEREAS, domestic violence is recognized as a pattern of  
2 behaviors used by one person to coercively control another  
3 person in a relationship; and  
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5           WHEREAS, domestic violence may take the form of  
6 psychological, physical, or sexual abuse and may happen once or  
7 periodically to victims of any age, gender, race, culture,  
8 religion, education level, employment status, or marital status;  
9 and  
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11           WHEREAS, the primary, most damaging, and long-term form of  
12 domestic violence is psychological abuse, which rarely leaves  
13 any physical traces of its occurrence; and  
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15           WHEREAS, victims of abuse are encouraged to terminate  
16 relationships with abusive partners for their own safety and the  
17 safety of their children and to avert further and future harm;  
18 and  
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20           WHEREAS, the termination of an abusive relationship may  
21 increase a perpetrator's lethality because the perpetrator loses  
22 control over the victim and may increase abusive behavior in  
23 order to regain control; and  
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25           WHEREAS, child custody and visitation frequently become  
26 disputed issues after a victim successfully escapes an abusive  
27 relationship; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the litigation of child custody and visitation  
30 disputes often provides perpetrators of domestic abuse and  
31 family violence with an ongoing venue for the continued use of  
32 coercive control against their former partners under the guise  
33 of child custody and visitation concerns; and  
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1 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime in addition  
2 to being a serious personal or family problem; and  
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4 WHEREAS, section 571-46(a)(9)-(14), Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, establishes specific criteria for the Family Court to  
6 consider in custody or visitation disputes when family violence  
7 has occurred; now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2011, that the Judiciary is requested to develop and  
12 implement a training program for Family Court judges and  
13 guardians ad litem to better recognize and understand the  
14 various signs and consequences of domestic violence; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
18 Court, the Senior Judge of the Family Court, the Administrative  
19 Director of the Courts, and the Chief Court Administrator of  
20 each Circuit.  
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