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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION  
AWARENESS MONTH" IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the one of the most commonly  
2 occurring genetic conditions, with one in every seven hundred  
3 thirty-three live births resulting in a baby born with Down  
4 syndrome, and it is the most commonly occurring chromosomal  
5 condition; and

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7           WHEREAS, advancements in Down syndrome research have given  
8 doctors, therapists, and educators new tools to care for  
9 individuals with Down syndrome so that they may live healthy and  
10 fulfilling lives; and

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12           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the many achievements,  
13 abilities, and unique communication needs of individuals with  
14 Down syndrome; and

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16           WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome are living longer than  
17 ever before and the life expectancy of individuals with Down  
18 syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades -- from 25  
19 years in 1983 to 60 years today; and

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21           WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome are often fully  
22 integrated in social and educational settings and increasingly  
23 go on to graduate from high school and attend postsecondary  
24 education programs; and

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26           WHEREAS, while placement in the workforce remains a  
27 challenge, career opportunities have improved, and adults with  
28 Down syndrome have attained a variety of positions, bringing  
29 enthusiasm, reliability, and dedication to their jobs; and

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31           WHEREAS, advancements in education, research, and advocacy  
32 have had a tremendous impact on the opportunities for  
33 individuals with Down syndrome to live functional, successful



1 lives; however, further education and awareness for Down  
2 syndrome is needed; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the month of October of  
7 each year be recognized as "Down Syndrome Education Awareness  
8 Month" in Hawaii; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,  
11 pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of  
12 2004, is requested to develop guidelines for a lifelong learning  
13 approach for individuals with Down syndrome and to extend sign  
14 language instruction with speech to students with Down syndrome  
15 who can hear; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
19 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive  
20 Director of the Charter School Administrative Office, Executive  
21 Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools,  
22 Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress, and Down Syndrome Ohana of  
23 Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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*Karen Auana*  
*[Signature]*  
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MAR 16 2011

