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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNIT WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child  
2 abuse is well documented in clinical research and literature;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, overlooking domestic violence in child welfare  
6 cases can result in catastrophic consequences for the child and  
7 victim-survivors; and  
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9           WHEREAS, inaccurately diagnosing domestic violence dynamics  
10 in child welfare cases can result in potentially life-  
11 threatening consequences for the child and victim-survivors; and  
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13           WHEREAS, inaccurate assessment and mishandling of domestic  
14 violence cases within the Child Welfare Services Branch of the  
15 Department of Human Services due to a lack of training resulting  
16 in thousands of wasted state and taxpayer dollars; and  
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18           WHEREAS, existing domestic violence service agencies and  
19 Child Welfare Services have failed to enact effective and  
20 accurate working collaborations on child welfare cases when  
21 domestic violence issues are raised or identified; and  
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23           WHEREAS, other states have integrated domestic violence  
24 units into their child welfare services divisions with  
25 remarkable success with client outcome and worker satisfaction;  
26 and  
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28           WHEREAS, there is a crucial need for such domestic violence  
29 units within Hawaii's Child Welfare Services; now, therefore,  
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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2011, that the Department of Human Services is requested to  
34 create a specialized domestic violence unit within the Child  
35 Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Human Services to



1 address and appropriately respond to child welfare cases in each  
2 county where an allegation or history of domestic violence has  
3 been raised or identified; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
6 Services shall submit a report of any findings and  
7 recommendations regarding the status, challenges, and  
8 opportunities of the establishment of the domestic violence unit  
9 to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the  
10 convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services and  
14 the Administrator of Child Welfare Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

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*...*

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