

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT 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 Senate of the Twenty-sixth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 2 Human Services is requested to create a specialized domestic
 3 violence unit within the Child Welfare Services Branch of the
 4 Department of Human Services to address and appropriately
 5 respond to child welfare cases in each county where an
 6 allegation or history of domestic violence has been raised or
 7 identified; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 10 Services shall submit a report of any findings and
 11 recommendations regarding the status, challenges, and
 12 opportunities of the establishment of the domestic violence unit
 13 to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the
 14 convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 18 Services and the Administrator of Child Welfare Services.

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OFFERED BY: Frances Ann Chum Caldwell
John
 Michelle Farlani
 The Clerk
 Mike Gifford
Ronald H. Bell
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