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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION AND ADDRESS CONCERNS OF FOSTER PARENTS.

WHEREAS, the foster care system plays an important role in the lives of more than 400,000 children nationwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 1,221 children were in foster care in Hawaii in fiscal year 2014; and

WHEREAS, there are many difficulties faced by children and foster parents in the foster care system for which resolution requires a commitment to improve foster care programs; and

WHEREAS, a discussion between foster parents and government agencies can help to improve foster care for children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, that the Department of Human Services is urged to establish a task force with foster parents to encourage communication and address any upcoming concerns foster parents may have; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of the following members:

- (1) The Director of Human Services or the Director's designee;
- (2) A representative from the Catholic Charities Hawaii Hale Malama Program;

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(3) A representative from Hui Ho'omalu; and

(4) A representative from Partners in Development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, the President of Catholic Charities Hawaii, the Project Director of Hui Ho'omalu, and the President of Partners in Development.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 1 1 2016