
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH TRAINING
PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION, IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

1 WHEREAS, this year marks the 95th anniversary of the League
2 of Nations' adoption of the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of
3 the Child, a paramount Declaration that advocates for the
4 wellbeing and care of children including their protection
5 against exploitation; and
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7 WHEREAS, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the
8 adoption of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the
9 Child, a critically integral human rights treaty that sets out
10 the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural
11 rights of children, currently with 196 nation-states signing,
12 adopting, and ratifying this highly important treaty; and
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14 WHEREAS, this year marks the 45th anniversary of the United
15 States' adoption of the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and
16 Treatment Act, which provides federal funding and guidance to
17 states in support of prevention, assessment, treatment, and
18 prosecution of child abuse and neglect; and
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20 WHEREAS, children are our most precious asset, but some
21 cannot adequately defend themselves against the harmful actions
22 of adults; and
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24 WHEREAS, each year, nearly eight million children in the
25 United States are maltreated by their parents or other adults,
26 and every day approximately five children die in the United
27 States due to circumstances attributed to child abuse or
28 mistreatment; and
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1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, nearly 4,000 cases of child abuse are
2 reported each year with more than 1,000 unique cases of child
3 abuse confirmed by the Department of Human Services; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2005, a 5-year-old girl named Talia Williams
6 died after months of abuse at the hands of her father and step-
7 mother at Wheeler Army Airfield housing on Oahu; and
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9 WHEREAS, in honor of Talia Williams, President Barack Obama
10 signed "Talia's Law" in 2016, which now requires any abuse
11 taking place on a military base to be reported to civilian
12 authorities; and
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14 WHEREAS, the tragic death of young Talia Williams in fact
15 served to propel a watershed, momentous shift in the State's
16 awareness to the many types of child abuse and neglect; now,
17 therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
21 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is
22 requested to establish training programs to empower parents,
23 teachers, students, and administrators on how to prevent,
24 identify, report, and mitigate all forms of child abuse that may
25 take place; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
29 the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.
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