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# HOUSE 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United  
15 States adopting the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
16 Act, which provides federal funding and guidance to states in  
17 support of prevention, assessment, treatment, and prosecution of  
18 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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30           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, nearly 4,000 cases of child abuse are  
31 reported each year with more than 1,000 unique cases of child  
32 abuse confirmed by the Department of Human Services; and



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2 WHEREAS, in 2005, a 5-year-old girl named Talia Williams  
3 died after months of abuse at the hands of her father and step-  
4 mother at Wheeler Army Airfield housing on Oahu; and  
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6 WHEREAS, in honor of Talia Williams, President Barack Obama  
7 signed "Talia's Law" in 2016, which now requires any abuse  
8 taking place on a military base to be reported to civilian  
9 authorities; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the tragic death of young Talia Williams in fact  
12 served to propel a watershed, momentous shift in the State's  
13 awareness to the many types of child abuse and neglect; now,  
14 therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
18 2019, that the Department of Education is requested to establish  
19 training programs to empower parents, teachers, students, and  
20 administrators on how to prevent, identify, report, and mitigate  
21 all forms of child abuse that may take place; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
25 the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.  
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