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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A MOBILE APPLICATION  
FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

1           WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Department of Human  
2 Services, 3,534 reports of child abuse were made in 2017 and  
3 1,274 of these reports were confirmed instances of child abuse  
4 or neglect; and  
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6           WHEREAS, in most cases, reporting child abuse or neglect is  
7 the only way for law enforcement and support services to rescue  
8 children from harmful environments, provide victims with  
9 resources toward safety and healing, and bring perpetrators of  
10 abuse to justice; and  
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12           WHEREAS, in 2018, the Mississippi Department of Child  
13 Protective Services launched a first-in-the-nation smartphone  
14 application that allows people to report suspected child abuse  
15 or neglect; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in January 2019, the Hawaii Department of  
18 Education expanded the way students can report bullying by  
19 launching the Speak Now HIDOE mobile application, which allows  
20 students to instantly report bullying incidents on campus to  
21 school officials with an option to submit the report  
22 anonymously; and  
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24           WHEREAS, a mobile application provides a more convenient  
25 and anonymous way to report suspected cases of child abuse and  
26 neglect and can expedite the process of relieving children from  
27 abusive situations; now, therefore,  
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29           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
31 2019, that the Department of Human Services in conjunction with



1 the Department of Education is requested to develop a mobile  
2 application to report suspected child abuse or neglect and to  
3 encourage parents, guardians, students, and teachers to download  
4 the application; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the application should include,  
7 but not be limited to, fields to provide the victim's  
8 information, the suspect's information, and the option to report  
9 anonymously; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Human  
13 Services, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the  
14 Superintendent of Education, the Director of Public Safety, and  
15 the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

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18 OFFERED BY:

<u>Roddeking</u>	<u>Jan Math</u>
<u>Guthrie</u>	<u>Mya. Alda</u>
<u>Val</u>	<u>Dariusz</u>
<u>TORRES</u>	<u>Tim Windy</u>
	<u>T. Stab</u>
	<u>W. R. R.</u>
	<u>H. J. O.</u>
	<u>Dr.</u>
	<u>W. R.</u>

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