
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS "FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH", A TIME TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF FOSTER CARE, INCLUDING FOSTER PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES.

1 WHEREAS, the foster care system plays an important role in
2 the lives of more than 500,000 children nationwide who are in
3 foster care programs; and

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5 WHEREAS, on average each day 1,700 children live in foster
6 homes in the state; and

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8 WHEREAS, children in the foster care system face many
9 difficulties, which calls for a commitment to improve foster
10 care programs; and

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12 WHEREAS, many children in the foster care system have spent
13 multiple years in foster care programs, experiencing an unstable
14 home life due to frequent moves from one foster home to another;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, approximately 50 per cent of foster care children
18 have been placed in foster care programs for longer than one
19 year; and

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21 WHEREAS, nearly a quarter of foster care children have been
22 placed in foster care programs for at least three years; and

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24 WHEREAS, children in foster care programs for longer
25 periods of time often experience worse outcomes than children in
26 foster care programs for shorter periods of time; and

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28 WHEREAS, children in foster care programs are more likely
29 than the general population to become teen parents, rely on

1 public assistance as adults, become homeless, and experience
2 mental health disorders at a higher rate; and

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4 WHEREAS, repeated studies have shown that a child's very
5 early years are crucial for brain development, making it
6 extremely important to find suitable permanent homes for
7 children during this critical period; and

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9 WHEREAS, many children are eligible for adoption every
10 year, but fewer than half of the children in foster care
11 programs are actually adopted; and

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13 WHEREAS, not only is a stable home critical to a child's
14 development, but every child deserves to be raised by a loving
15 family; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby
20 recognizes the month of May as "Foster Care Awareness Month", a
21 time to educate the public about the various components of
22 foster care, including foster parents, children, and families;
23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that continuing to improve the
26 foster care system in Hawaii will remain a top priority for the
27 Legislature; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
31 of Human Services, Director of Kokua Ohana, Executive Director
32 of Hawaii Youth Services Network, and President of Foster Family
33 Programs of Hawaii.