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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH RESOURCE CENTERS ON THEIR  
CAMPUSES IN ORDER TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS.

1           WHEREAS, thousands of Hawaii residents are homeless or at  
2 risk of becoming homeless; and

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4           WHEREAS, the slowing economy in Hawaii will subject  
5 increasing numbers of people to financial stress and potential  
6 homelessness; and

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8           WHEREAS, a key element of the struggle against homelessness  
9 is to ensure that families receive adequate, centralized  
10 information and referral with regard to existing health, human  
11 service, educational, and legal resources that can help them to  
12 avoid homelessness, to cope with homelessness when it occurs,  
13 and to take steps out of homelessness; and

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15           WHEREAS, families that are homeless or at risk of becoming  
16 homeless often lack ready and early access to adequate,  
17 centralized information and referral; and

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19           WHEREAS, the public elementary schools are among the most  
20 recognizable, accessible, non-threatening, and widely used  
21 resources in the community, and the administrators and teachers  
22 in those schools have constant contact with and extensive  
23 knowledge of the circumstances of families in their community;  
24 and

25  
26           WHEREAS, the Kamaile Elementary School, the Blanche Pope  
27 Elementary School, and the Makaha Elementary School have  
28 established resource centers that provide information and  
29 referral; and

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1 WHEREAS, existing data sets on homelessness are inadequate  
2 to provide a complete, in-depth picture of the extent, nature,  
3 patterns, and circumstances of homelessness in communities  
4 throughout the islands; and  
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6 WHEREAS, elementary school administrators, teachers, and  
7 resource and referral centers often have the information  
8 necessary to provide a more complete picture of homelessness;  
9 now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education  
14 is urged to encourage the public elementary schools to establish  
15 on-campus resource centers that provide information on, and  
16 referral to, existing resources that can combat homelessness;  
17 and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
20 urged to foster the development of these resource centers as  
21 sources of information on the extent, nature, patterns, and  
22 circumstances of homelessness in their communities; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
26 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
27 Education, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the  
28 Office of Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: Calvin K. Day  
By Request

JAN 26 2009

