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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING RELIGIOUS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP  
APPROPRIATE WAYS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1           WHEREAS, domestic violence consists of behaviors used by  
2 one person in a relationship to control the other; and  
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4           WHEREAS, domestic violence can occur in many forms such as  
5 psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse and can happen once or  
6 periodically to victims of any age, gender, race, culture,  
7 education level, employment or marital status, or religion; and  
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9           WHEREAS, victims of abuse, particularly women and families  
10 in need, benefit not only from information about preventing,  
11 stopping or recognizing the warning signs of domestic violence  
12 or abuse, but they also need support from family and friends and  
13 others from their religious community that they trust; and  
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15           WHEREAS, Hawaii's religious and faith-based communities can  
16 be a source of support for victims of domestic violence and  
17 their religious organizations can be considered safe  
18 environments, or "safe havens", where domestic violence victims  
19 and their family members can receive assistance, counseling, and  
20 referral services; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic  
23 Violence is a private, not-for-profit statewide organization  
24 whose purpose is to end family violence in Hawaii by  
25 coordinating domestic violence prevention and intervention  
26 services, affecting public policy, and establishing coordinated  
27 and consistent procedures and actions by the civil and criminal  
28 justice systems in Hawaii; and  
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30           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic  
31 Violence serves as a clearinghouse, provides technical

1 assistance on family violence matters, and provides facilitation  
2 when requested by member agencies; and  
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4 WHEREAS, faith-based organizations such as the Hawaii  
5 Family Forum, Hawaii Catholic Conference, The Interfaith  
6 Alliance of Hawaii, and the Faith in Action for Community Equity  
7 serve to network a range of churches and religious organizations  
8 in almost every community and neighborhood in the State; and  
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10 WHEREAS, these umbrella faith-based organizations need to  
11 meet to find unity in addressing the growing problem of domestic  
12 violence and work with service organizations such as the Hawaii  
13 State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Catholic Charities  
14 of Hawaii to discuss issues related to how churches and clergy  
15 can respond to the issue of domestic violence and provide  
16 appropriate responses; and  
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18 WHEREAS, faith-based organizations need to also discuss  
19 issues related to the ethical, legal, liability, and safety  
20 issues related to their response to domestic violence and  
21 consider what types of training and certification are needed to  
22 provide an appropriate response; now, therefore,  
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
26 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that religious or faith-based  
27 member organizations, such as the Hawaii Family Forum and the  
28 Hawaii Catholic Conference, The Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii,  
29 and Faith in Action for Community Equity, are urged to develop a  
30 working group with representatives from the Hawaii State  
31 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Catholic Charities Hawaii,  
32 and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the appropriate role  
33 of religious or faith-based organizations in addressing the  
34 prevention of domestic violence and providing "safe havens" for  
35 those trying to escape abusive relationships; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director  
39 of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the  
40 Executive Director of the Hawaii Family Forum and the Hawaii  
41 Catholic Conference, the President of The Interfaith Alliance of  
42 Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the All  
43 Believers Network, and Faith in Action for Community Equity,

- 1 which in turn are requested to transmit copies to their member
- 2 churches or other organizations throughout the State.