

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
UNIT WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child
2 abuse is well documented in clinical research and literature;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, overlooking domestic violence in child welfare
6 cases can result in catastrophic consequences for the child and
7 victim-survivors; and
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9 WHEREAS, inaccurately diagnosing domestic violence dynamics
10 in child welfare cases can result in potentially life-
11 threatening consequences for the child and victim-survivors; and
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13 WHEREAS, inaccurate assessment and mishandling of domestic
14 violence cases within the Child Welfare Services Branch of the
15 Department of Human Services due to a lack of training resulting
16 in thousands of wasted state and taxpayer dollars; and
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18 WHEREAS, existing domestic violence service agencies and
19 Child Welfare Services have failed to enact effective and
20 accurate working collaborations on child welfare cases when
21 domestic violence issues are raised or identified; and
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23 WHEREAS, other states have integrated domestic violence
24 units into their child welfare services divisions with
25 remarkable success with client outcome and worker satisfaction;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, there is a crucial need for such domestic violence
29 units within Hawaii's Child Welfare Services; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
33 that the Department of Human Services is requested to create a
34 specialized domestic violence unit within the Child Welfare
35 Services Branch of the Department of Human Services to address



1 and appropriately respond to child welfare cases in each county
2 where an allegation or history of domestic violence has been
3 raised or identified; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
6 Services shall submit a report of any findings and
7 recommendations regarding the status, challenges, and
8 opportunities of the establishment of the domestic violence unit
9 to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the
10 convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services and
14 the Administrator of Child Welfare Services.
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OFFERED BY:

Thomas Chun Oakland
John

