
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS TO EMPOWER PARENTS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ON HOW TO PREVENT, IDENTIFY, REPORT, AND MITIGATE ALL FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE THAT MAY TAKE PLACE.

1 WHEREAS, this year marks the ninety-fifth anniversary of
2 the League of Nations' adoption of the Geneva Declaration of the
3 Rights of the Child, a paramount Declaration that advocates for
4 the well-being and care of children, including their protection
5 against exploitation; and

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7 WHEREAS, this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the
8 adoption of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the
9 Child, a critically integral human rights treaty that sets out
10 the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural
11 rights of children, currently with one hundred ninety-six
12 nation-states signing, adopting, and ratifying this highly
13 important treaty; and

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15 WHEREAS, this year marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the
16 United States' adoption of the Federal Child Abuse Prevention
17 and Treatment Act, which provides federal funding and guidance
18 to states in support of prevention, assessment, treatment, and
19 prosecution of child abuse and neglect; and

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21 WHEREAS, children are our most precious asset, but some
22 cannot adequately defend themselves against the harmful actions
23 of adults; and

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25 WHEREAS, each year, nearly eight million children in the
26 United States are maltreated by their parents or other adults,
27 and every day approximately five children die in the United
28 States due to circumstances attributed to child abuse or
29 mistreatment; and

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1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, nearly four thousand cases of child
2 abuse are reported each year with more than one thousand unique
3 cases of child abuse confirmed by the Department of Human
4 Services; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2005, a five-year-old girl named Talia Williams
7 died after months of abuse at the hands of her father and step-
8 mother at Wheeler Army Airfield housing on Oahu; and

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10 WHEREAS, in honor of Talia Williams, President Barack Obama
11 signed "Talia's Law" in 2016, which now requires any abuse
12 taking place on a military base to be reported to civilian
13 authorities; and

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15 WHEREAS, the tragic death of young Talia Williams, in fact,
16 served to propel a momentous shift in the State's awareness to
17 the many types of child abuse and neglect; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
21 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is
22 requested to establish training programs to empower parents,
23 teachers, students, and administrators on how to prevent,
24 identify, report, and mitigate all forms of child abuse that may
25 take place; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
29 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

