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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO COLLABORATE AND PRIORITIZE THEIR HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE HAWAII CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER BY CONVENING A TASK FORCE.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center is an  
2 educational facility where children and parents can learn by  
3 using their senses to explore, discover, imagine, and dream; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center, the first  
6 and only children's museum in the State, is located in downtown  
7 Honolulu and offers both indoor and outdoor educational  
8 programming for children; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center is also a  
11 major tourist attraction for many families visiting Hawaii; and  
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13           WHEREAS, learning while playing is a key to childhood  
14 development, and the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center allows  
15 its patrons to do so in a unique facility with four major  
16 galleries, each filled with hands-on, interactive exhibits; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center staff  
19 continues to work diligently to continue offering its programs,  
20 but must do so under unfavorable circumstances; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center, parents,  
23 and members of the community have raised concerns about the  
24 impact of the homeless encampments in the surrounding area; and  
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26           WHEREAS, health and safety concerns have been brought up  
27 about the outside and parking lot areas of the Hawaii Children's  
28 Discovery Center, which are often unsanitary and require  
29 excessive maintenance; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the impact of the homeless encampments has  
2 included reports of violence, drug dealing, crime, and other  
3 illicit behavior that pose a safety concern for the children and  
4 families that enter and leave the Center every day; and  
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6 WHEREAS, although the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center  
7 staff have operated over the years with empathy and a sense of  
8 aloha for individuals experiencing homelessness, the homeless  
9 encampments have become so detrimental to the Center and its  
10 patrons that it may force the Center to close down; and  
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12 WHEREAS, although different community groups, including one  
13 comprised of homeless individuals who reside in the area, have  
14 attempted to move the homeless encampments away from the Hawaii  
15 Children's Discovery Center, the homeless encampments still  
16 persist near and around the Center; and  
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18 WHEREAS, although steps have been taken to address the  
19 issue, there has not been a unified approach, resulting in  
20 delayed progress, miscommunication, and tension among all  
21 parties involved; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center and various  
24 community groups have expressed their willingness to work  
25 together to address homeless issues; now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
28 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
29 Representatives concurring, that the Governor's Coordinator on  
30 Homelessness and the City and County of Honolulu are urged to  
31 collaborate and prioritize their homelessness efforts in the  
32 area surrounding the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center by  
33 convening a task force; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
36 Homelessness is requested to convene a task force consisting of  
37 the Director of Public Safety; a member of the House of  
38 Representatives; a member of the Senate; a member of the  
39 Honolulu City Council; Executive Director of the Mayor's Office  
40 of Housing; Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department;  
41 Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Children's  
42 Discovery Center; representatives of vested community partners;



1 and one representative each from the Family Assessment Center,  
2 Next Step Shelter, and Kalihi Palama Health Center, if willing,  
3 to work together to develop strategies and a plan that will  
4 assist individuals and families facing homelessness around the  
5 Hawaii Children's Discovery Center and outline the tasks and  
6 responsibilities of each stakeholder; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
9 develop strategies and a plan that will protect the Hawaii  
10 Children's Discovery Center and surrounding areas by preventing  
11 unsanitary conditions, littering, vandalism, property damage,  
12 trespassing, unlawful entry, and other criminal or illicit  
13 activity; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Coordinator on  
16 Homelessness is requested to act as the Chairperson of the task  
17 force and is requested to submit a report of the task force's  
18 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
19 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
20 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
24 Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness,  
25 Director of Public Safety, Mayor of the City and County of  
26 Honolulu, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing,  
27 Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department, and Chair of  
28 the Board of Directors and President of the Hawaii Children's  
29 Discovery Center.

