## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2008 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, and security, but for some, it has become tainted with violence and fear; and

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WHEREAS, domestic violence is much more than the occasional family dispute; and

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WHEREAS, domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of assault or coercive behaviors that may include physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation, and threats; and

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WHEREAS, these behaviors are often perpetrated by an individual who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship, and are aimed at establishing control over another person; and

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WHEREAS, domestic violence is a societal problem that has reached epidemic proportions; and

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WHEREAS, domestic violence is also a serious criminal justice and public health problem; and

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WHEREAS, domestic violence has serious health consequences, and violent events can be severe and sometimes fatal, while physical and psychological abuse has been linked to a number of adverse health effects, often persisting for years after the abuse has ended; and

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WHEREAS, intimate partner violence, regardless of gender, affects families across America in all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of organizations has emerged to confront this crisis directly, including law enforcement agencies, domestic violence awareness groups, health care providers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and many other groups, to help in the effort to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their commitment, and increase the public awareness of this significant problem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that this body hereby recognizes October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the State of Hawaii; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, prosecuting attorney in each county, chief of police of the police departments in each county, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Action Center.

OFFERED BY:

FEB 2 7 2008