

Resolution

No. _____

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, October is recognized across the United States as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, this commemorative month evolved from the “Day of Unity” held in October 1981, conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to connect advocates across the nation working to end violence against women and children; and

WHEREAS, annually, 10 million people across the country, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or social and economic status, are victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, our nation is making tremendous progress in reducing these shameful crimes, embracing the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse, and recognizing that more work remains until every individual is able to live free from fear: and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has made great strides to increase social and legal services, education, and support for domestic violence victims, including local legislation critical to strengthening the rights of victims and ensuring serious consequences for abusers; and

WHEREAS, Act 206 (2011), sponsored by Senator Rosalyn Baker, prohibits discrimination for employees who are victims of domestic or sexual violence; Act 117 (2014), sponsored by the late Representative Mele Carroll, makes physical abuse in the presence of a minor under the age of 14 a felony; and Act 220 (2015), permits early termination of residential rental agreements by the tenant in cases of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence reported to the Maui County Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit has increased almost 2.5 times from 1,710 in 1992 to 3,823 in 2017; and

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WHEREAS, during the month of October, several events are held in Maui County to strengthen efforts against domestic violence, including the 7th Annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” on September 29; the first Maui “Men’s March Against Violence Against Women” on October 25; and “Blanketed by Blame” skits, which highlight the difference support can make and contrast victim-blaming with empowerment, on Lanai on October 26 and in Hana on October 29; and

WHEREAS, candlelight vigils will be held on Maui, Lanai and Molokai throughout the month in memory of those whose lives have been lost as a result of domestic violence and to honor survivors; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and success of those working tirelessly to end domestic violence in Maui County, and the strength of the survivors of domestic violence, should be recognized; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby recognizes the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Parents and Children Together/Family Peace Center Maui; Child and Family Service; Women Helping Women; Family Court of the Second Circuit; Maui County Committee on the Status of Women; the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui; Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Victim/Witness Assistance Division; and Maui County Department of Police Domestic Violence Unit.