

Resolution

No. 24-82

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2024 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, all children deserve to be in an environment that keeps them safe from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse crosses all socioeconomic, educational, religious, ethnic, and cultural groups; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, Governor Green designated Hawai'i a trauma-informed state and stated, "This designation will help alleviate some of the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma and build resilience in our families, communities, and the State;" and

WHEREAS, statistics published by the State Department of Human Services have shown that the incidence of child abuse has been on the rise in recent years; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that we can strengthen our communities and support our families through the development of protective factors, which allow parents or guardians to cope with their day-to-day stresses; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of childhood development, learned social and emotional competence, and support such as access to child care and health care, are protective factors linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, human-service agencies, such as those in the Ho'oiikaika Partnership, are creating a safety net of services to support children and their caregivers and to educate and advocate for policy, program, and systems changes to make a positive impact on the lives of our 'ohana in Maui County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui has a moral obligation and shared responsibility to protect every child from abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or

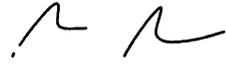
exploitation and to protect and to support all County of Maui children and their families; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Council is taking a necessary step to stop these kinds of abuses and promote a healthier and happier community; now, therefore

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

1. That it recognizes April 2024 as Child Abuse and Prevention Month in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Michael Kim, M.D., President, Maui Family Support Services, Inc.; Paul Tonnessen, Executive Director, Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui; Dean Wong, Executive Director, Imua Family Services; Amanda Pump, M.S., CSAC, ICADC, President and CEO, Child and Family Services; Ryan Kusumoto, President and CEO, Parents and Children Together; Elliot Kawaiho'olana Mills, Chair, Kamehameha Schools; William C. Bell, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Casey Family Programs; Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; Cathy Betts, Director, Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i; Valerie M. Kate, Deputy Director of Human Services, State of Hawai'i; Elladine Olevao, Child Welfare Services Branch Administrator, Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i; Debbie Kim Morikawa, Deputy Director, Family Health Services, Department of Health, State of Hawai'i; Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director of Mental Health, Department of Health, State of Hawai'i; Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing and Human Concerns; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'G' and 'J'.

GABE JOHNSON