

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 who were 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 almost tripled from 1,710 in 1992 to 4,459 in 2016; and

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WHEREAS, during the month of October, many events are held in Maui County to strengthen efforts against domestic violence, including “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, Men’s March Against Violence Against Women” on September 30, “Clothesline Project” on October 11, and candlelight vigils 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 Women Helping Women; Child and Family Services; Parents and Children Together; Maui Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit; County of Maui Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Domestic Violence Unit; and the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui.