

Resolution

No. _____

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2021 AS FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, domestic violence, divorce, paternity, and custody cases affect many individuals and families in Maui County; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about the complexities of family court cases can help protect vulnerable individuals and children; and

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month was created in 2020 by Tina Swithin, founder of One Mom's Battle, and Sandra Ross, board member of the California Protective Parents Association, during a cross-country tour during which they stopped to meet with media, domestic violence advocates, family court professionals, and survivors of post separation abuse along the way; and

WHEREAS, One Mom's Battle seeks to bring awareness and change to the family court system and honor the more than 100 children in the United States who have been murdered by a parent after a custody court rejected the other parent's plea for protection; and

WHEREAS, the California Protective Parents Association creates awareness by bringing people together as one voice in the movement to protect children and support victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month is an opportunity for survivors of domestic violence or post-separation abuse to amplify their voices while raising awareness of the shortcomings of the family court system; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui strongly supports safety for all its residents, especially its children, and deeply appreciates local organizations actively working with survivors and parents to educate them and improve family court systems; and

WHEREAS, by supporting Family Court Awareness Month, Maui County would join 200 other cities and counties nationwide to stand with local and national advocacy groups highlighting the importance of child safety in the family court system; now, therefore,

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

1. That it recognizes November 2021 as Family Court Awareness Month in Maui County;
2. That it recognizes and appreciates the powerful work being done every day by individuals, groups, and organizations offering advocacy, education, and awareness about domestic violence, coercive control, and post-separation abuse in Maui County; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Sanoe Kaaihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women; Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO, Parents and Children Together; Paul Tonnessen, Executive Director, Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui; M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii; Shana Orta, Director of Maui County Programs, Child and Family Services; Angelina Mercado, Executive Director, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Stacey Moniz, Maui Commissioner, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; Kate Griffiths, Chair, Maui County Committee on the Status of Women; Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.