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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
BRANCH TO STUDY THE ROLE OF GESTATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS,  
GENTLE BIRTHING PRACTICES, ADULT WELLNESS EDUCATION,  
DOMESTIC HARMONY AWARENESS, AND APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT  
TOUCH AND THEIR CONNECTION TO PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS SUCH  
AS SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, in memory of Puna, Hawaii resident Sarah Marie  
2 Faye, and Sarah's beauty, intelligence, and passion for life,  
3 the Legislature shares in the public outcry regarding the need  
4 to educate, collaborate, and develop strategies to address  
5 domestic violence; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that domestic violence,  
8 especially when exacerbated by substance abuse or alcoholism,  
9 involves important public policy concerns that require study and  
10 deliberation in order to identify strategies to reduce their  
11 prevalence in Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, it has been recognized that wellness education  
14 teaches, instead of reacting to stress, healthy development and  
15 peaceful co-existence of family members, and thus decreases  
16 domestic abuse, substance abuse, and alcoholism; and

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18 WHEREAS, it is relatively well-known and accepted that the  
19 health and well-being of a pregnant woman is linked to her  
20 unborn child's health and well-being; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the experience of birth  
23 imprints the basic personality of a child; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, it has been asserted that domestic abuse and  
26 turmoil in a child's domestic environment may lead to a  
27 propensity for that child to abuse others in the future; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the positive impact of  
30 trained birthing professionals and, in particular, birth doulas,



1 who are professionals trained and experienced in childbirth who  
2 provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational  
3 support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth;  
4 now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
9 Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch is requested to study  
10 the role of gestational environments, gentle birthing practices,  
11 domestic harmony awareness, and appropriate and sufficient  
12 touch, and the impact these practices may have on reducing  
13 substance abuse, domestic violence, and alcoholism; and

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
16 Maternal and Child Health Branch is requested to report its  
17 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
23 Director of Health, and the Chief of the Maternal and Child  
24 Health Branch.

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27 OFFERED BY: *Frzanne Crum Oalland*

