
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVEL GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CREATING "HEART HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES".

1 WHEREAS, more than half of the adults in America live
2 inactive lifestyles and two-thirds are overweight or obese; and
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4 WHEREAS, since the 1950s, sedentary American jobs have
5 increased by eighty-three per cent, the number of people who
6 drive to work has increased by thirty per cent, and suburban
7 residents have increased by one hundred fifteen per cent; and
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9 WHEREAS, during the same period, student attendance in
10 physical education classes has dropped twenty-three per cent,
11 and daily television viewing has increased sixty per cent; and
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13 WHEREAS, in addition, commercial food consumption has
14 surged, and the creation of suburban communities has resulted in
15 dramatic increases in car travel and a sharp decline in walking;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, a recent study by the Rand Corporation found that
19 people who live in more densely populated places, where the
20 streets are laid out on a grid and sidewalks, residential
21 neighborhoods, and street-front shops encourage walking, were
22 more likely to exercise enough to ward off chronic illnesses
23 such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and stroke; and
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25 WHEREAS, the study also found that people who live in
26 suburban communities that are more geographically spread out and
27 have fewer exercise amenities have higher rates for the same
28 chronic illnesses; and
29

30 WHEREAS, many public agencies throughout the country are
31 now teaming up with foundations, universities, and private
32 companies to launch a new kind of health campaign that focuses



1 on improving people's exercise and food options instead of
2 reforming their behavior; and
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4 WHEREAS, Congress recently revised the national
5 school-lunch law to require that participating public schools
6 create nutrition and exercise policies, and forty states have
7 introduced legislation for the same purposes; and
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9 WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has adopted a sweeping
10 plan to restrict fat, sugar, and portion sizes for any food
11 served in its public schools and the State of California is
12 proposing to extend a ban on soft drink sales in high schools;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina School of Public
16 Health has initiated "Active Living by Design," a national
17 program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and
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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Kokua Kalihi Valley is a grantee of
20 "Active Living by Design," a program that establishes innovative
21 approaches to increase physical activity through community
22 design, public policies, and communication strategies; and
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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii's community planners and other government
25 leaders can help to create environments that include healthier
26 food choices in schools and public buildings and exercise
27 choices, such as mass transit alternatives, expanded parks, bike
28 lanes, walking paths, and other amenities, to make it easier to
29 get and stay fit; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's county,
34 state, and federal level government officials are urged to play
35 an active role in creating "heart healthy communities" by
36 fostering and encouraging healthy lifestyles through their
37 public policy development and community planning
38 responsibilities; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
42 delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of
43 Health, the Superintendent of Education, and the Mayors and
44 Council Chairpersons of each county in Hawaii.

