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

