

FEB 06 2007

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY THE  
IMPACT OF CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN  
OTHER STATES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that cigarettes are the  
2 leading cause of fire deaths in the nation; and  
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4 WHEREAS, each year, seven hundred to nine hundred people  
5 are killed in the United States due to cigarette fires, and  
6 three thousand are injured in fires ignited by cigarettes; and  
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8 WHEREAS, a high proportion of the victims of cigarette  
9 fires are non-smokers, including senior citizens and young  
10 children; and  
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12 WHEREAS, cigarette-caused fires result in billions of  
13 dollars in property loss and damages in the United States and  
14 thousands of dollars in this State; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, for the three-year period of 2003-2005,  
17 there were two hundred sixteen cigarette-caused fires, resulting  
18 in \$283,570 in property damage and three civilian injuries; and  
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20 WHEREAS, in addition, cigarette fires unnecessarily  
21 jeopardize firefighters and result in avoidable emergency  
22 response costs for Hawaii's county fire departments; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the state of  
25 New York enacted a cigarette fire safety regulation, effective  
26 June 28, 2004, which requires that cigarettes sold in that state  
27 meet a fire safety performance standard; and  
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29 WHEREAS, in 2005, the states of Vermont and California  
30 signed into law cigarette fire safety acts that directly  
31 incorporate New York's regulation into statute, and in 2006, the



1 states of Illinois, New Hampshire, and New Jersey did the same;  
2 and  
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4 WHEREAS, Canada implemented the New York fire safety  
5 standard as of October 2005, becoming the first nation to have a  
6 cigarette fire safety standard; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that New York's cigarette  
9 fire safety standard is based upon decades of research by the  
10 National Institute of Standards and Technology, congressional  
11 research groups, and private industry; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the State of  
14 Hawaii could benefit from comparable cigarette fire safety  
15 standards to reduce the likelihood that cigarettes will cause  
16 fires and result in deaths, injuries, and property damage; now,  
17 therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of the  
22 Attorney General is requested to study the impact of cigarette  
23 fire safety standards established in other states and Canada;  
24 and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
27 General, in consultation with the Department of Health, the  
28 Department of Taxation, and the State Fire Council, is requested  
29 to determine how these standards could be adopted in Hawaii,  
30 with a minimum of cost to the State, and with minimal burden to  
31 cigarette manufacturers, distributors, and retail sellers; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
34 General is requested to report its findings and recommendations  
35 to the Legislature not later than twenty days before the  
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
37



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,  
3 Director of Health, Director of Taxation, and Chair of the State  
4 Fire Council.  
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