

JAN 24 2007

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, APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT
TOUCH, AND THE PRACTICE OF HEALING BIRTH TRAUMA, AND THEIR
CONNECTION TO PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS SUCH AS SUBSTANCE
ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND OBESITY.

1 WHEREAS, in memory of Hawaii residents Daysha Aiona Aka and
2 Sarah Marie Faye whose passions for life were cut short as
3 victims of domestic violence, the Legislature shares in the
4 public outcry regarding the need to educate, collaborate, and
5 develop strategies to address domestic violence; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that societal issues such as
8 domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, and obesity,
9 involve 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 healthy development and peaceful coexistence of family
15 members and thus decreases incidences of substance abuse,
16 alcoholism, and domestic violence; and

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18 WHEREAS, recent scientific findings in a variety of
19 disciplines have contributed to an emerging understanding of the
20 primal developmental needs of individuals from conception
21 through early infancy; and

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23 WHEREAS, it is relatively well-known and accepted that the
24 health and well-being of an unborn child is linked to the health
25 and well-being of the mother; and

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27 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the experience of birth
28 imprints the basic personality of a child; and



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2 WHEREAS, it has been asserted that domestic abuse and
3 turmoil during the prenatal period, labor, birth, or in a
4 newborn child's domestic environment can negatively impact the
5 child's development; and
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7 WHEREAS, science suggests that appropriate and sufficient
8 touch and human contact between an infant child and the child's
9 caregivers is integral to a child's healthy development; and
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11 WHEREAS, the right of a woman to choose the course of a
12 pregnancy also extends the right of a woman to choose where she
13 will labor and to give birth with qualified caregivers of her
14 choice; and
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16 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the increased incidence
17 of inducement and narcotic use during labor, as well as the
18 increase in surgical births, are related to an increase in pre-
19 term births and long-term health conditions, including a greater
20 propensity to over use drugs throughout life, thereby indicating
21 a need for consistent science-based protocols and policies in
22 this field; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the positive impact of
25 trained birthing professionals and, in particular, birth doulas,
26 who are trained and experienced childbirth professionals who
27 provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational
28 support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, the Legislature acknowledges that a growing body
32 of science from diverse fields supports further study of the
33 roles of gestational environments, gentle birthing practices,
34 adult wellness education, domestic harmony awareness,
35 appropriate and sufficient touch, and the practice of healing
36 birth trauma, and the impact these practices may have on
37 reducing the occurrence of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic
38 violence, and obesity; now, therefore,
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
42 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
43 Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to study
44 the roles of gestational environments, gentle birthing



1 practices, adult wellness education, domestic harmony awareness,
2 appropriate and sufficient touch, and the practice of healing
3 birth trauma, and the impact these practices may have on
4 reducing the occurrence of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic
5 violence, and obesity; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
8 Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to report its
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
15 Director of Health, and the Chief of the Maternal and Child
16 Health Branch.

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19 OFFERED BY:

Therese Chun Oakland
By Request

