

JAN 24 2007

## SENATE 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, this body shares in the public  
4 outcry regarding the need to educate, collaborate, and develop  
5 strategies to address domestic violence; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, this body 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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30 WHEREAS, it has been asserted that domestic abuse and  
31 turmoil during the prenatal period, labor, birth, or in a



1 newborn child's domestic environment can negatively impact the  
2 child's development; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, science suggests that appropriate and sufficient  
5 touch and human contact between an infant child and the child's  
6 caregivers is integral to a child's healthy development; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the right of a woman to choose the course of a  
9 pregnancy also extends the right of a woman to choose where she  
10 will labor and to give birth with qualified caregivers of her  
11 choice; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the increased incidence  
14 of inducement and narcotic use during labor, as well as the  
15 increase in surgical births, are related to an increase in pre-  
16 term births and long-term health conditions, including a greater  
17 propensity to over use drugs throughout life, thereby indicating  
18 a need for consistent science-based protocols and policies in  
19 this field; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the positive impact of  
22 trained birthing professionals and, in particular, birth doulas,  
23 who are trained and experienced childbirth professionals who  
24 provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational  
25 support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth;  
26 and

27  
28 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges that a growing body of  
29 science from diverse fields supports further study of the roles  
30 of gestational environments, gentle birthing practices, adult  
31 wellness education, domestic harmony awareness, appropriate and  
32 sufficient touch, and the practice of healing birth trauma, and  
33 the impact these practices may have on reducing the occurrence  
34 of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, and obesity;  
35 now, therefore,

36  
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
39 that the Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch,  
40 is requested to study the roles of gestational environments,  
41 gentle birthing practices, adult wellness education, domestic  
42 harmony awareness, appropriate and sufficient touch, and the  
43 practice of healing birth trauma, and the impact these practices



1 may have on reducing the occurrence of substance abuse,  
2 alcoholism, domestic violence, and obesity; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
5 Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to report its  
6 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
7 legislation, to the Senate no later than twenty days prior to  
8 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of  
12 Health, and the Chief of the Maternal and Child Health Branch.  
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OFFERED BY: Elizabeth Chun Oakland  
By Request

