
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE USE AND SAFETY
OF CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND TOYS CONTAINING PHTHALATES AND
BISPHENOL-A.

1 WHEREAS, many common ingredients used for the production of
2 foods, textile, tools, and toys have been found to be toxic for
3 human use or consumption; and

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5 WHEREAS, growing children are particularly at risk to
6 chemicals in their environment, as they face greater exposure
7 per pound of body weight and are physiologically more
8 susceptible to chemicals; and

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10 WHEREAS, phthalates, a class of chemicals used in polyvinyl
11 chloride plastic to improve flexibility and in cosmetics to bind
12 fragrance to the product, are also used in many products
13 intended for use by infants and young children, including
14 teethers, toys, and soft plastic books; and

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16 WHEREAS, bisphenol-A has been used for more than fifty
17 years to make shatter-resistant polycarbonate plastic and
18 versatile epoxy resins and is found in a wide array of consumer
19 products such as reusable baby bottles, food storage containers,
20 and corrective eyeglass lenses; and

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22 WHEREAS, there is extensive scientific literature reporting
23 the hormone-disrupting effect of phthalates and substantial
24 evidence that the phthalates of concern are found in humans at
25 levels associated with adverse effects; and

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27 WHEREAS, many studies have suggested that bisphenol-A
28 exposure, even in very low doses, is linked to a staggering
29 number of health problems, including cancer, obesity, attention
30 deficit and hyperactivity disorder, and brain damage; and



1 WHEREAS, other studies have claimed no demonstrated health
2 risk from the use of phthalates and bisphenol-A; and

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4 WHEREAS, many have called for a prohibition on the
5 manufacture, sale, or distribution of certain toys and child
6 care articles containing bisphenol-A or specific types of
7 phthalates in concentrations exceeding 0.1 per cent and to
8 require manufacturers to use safer alternatives when replacing
9 phthalates in their products; and

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11 WHEREAS, to provide more information and weigh the pros and
12 cons of using products containing phthalates and bisphenol-A,
13 the Department of Health should study the use and safety of
14 children's products and toys containing these chemicals; now,
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
20 Health is requested to investigate the use and safety of
21 children's products and toys that contain phthalates and
22 bisphenol-A; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
25 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
26 December 31, 2010 that includes:

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28 (1) Analysis of children's toys and products containing
29 either phthalates or bisphenol-A, detailing how these
30 chemicals are used in specific applications and
31 identifying exposure potential and any potential
32 health risk;
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34 (2) Assessment and summary of relevant scientific studies
35 on bisphenol-A and phthalates used in children's toys
36 and products, including the scientific reviews and
37 risk assessments conducted by the United States
38 Consumer Product Safety Commission, the European
39 Union, and other independent scientific panels or
40 bodies; and
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42 (3) Recommendations regarding future policy options or the
43 need for further scientific research on exposure of



1 children to phthalates and bisphenol-A used in toys
2 and other children's products; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 requested to appoint a nine-member Scientific Review Panel for
6 the purpose of reviewing scientific studies, to include:
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- 8 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee, who
9 is requested to serve as the chairperson;
- 10 (2) At least three qualified toxicologists;
- 11 (3) At least one oncologist;
- 12 (4) At least one epidemiologist or biostatistician; and
- 13 (5) Individuals with relevant scientific experience and
14 experience in the operation of scientific review or
15 advisory bodies, and in scientific risk assessment.
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, in
22 convening the Scientific Review Panel, is requested to solicit
23 public input on a pool of nominees to include at least three
24 nominees for each discipline represented on the panel; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
27 requested to hold a public workshop, prior to the completion of
28 the final report, in order to provide an opportunity for public
29 comment on the draft version of the report; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 requested to respond to comments in a timely manner and to
33 ensure public accessibility to documents presented at any
34 workshops and used in preparation of the report; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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