
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE USE AND CONSUMPTION OF PHTHALATES, BISPHENOL-A, AND ASPARTAME IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY BY YOUNG CHILDREN.

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, phthalates, a class of chemicals used in polyvinyl
6 chloride plastic to improve flexibility and in cosmetics to bind
7 fragrance to the product, are also used in many products
8 intended for use by infants and young children, including
9 teethers, toys, and soft plastic books; and
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11 WHEREAS, there is extensive scientific literature reporting
12 the hormone-disrupting effect of phthalates and substantial
13 evidence that levels of the phthalates of concern are found in
14 humans at levels associated with adverse effects; and
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16 WHEREAS, often such chemicals have a far greater
17 devastating effect on children whose bodies are still in a
18 rapidly developing state in this stage of life; and
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20 WHEREAS, population studies show that virtually everyone
21 carries some level of phthalates in their body; and
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23 WHEREAS, for the general population, the oral route of
24 exposure is considered a major route; and
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26 WHEREAS, many have called for a prohibition on the
27 manufacture, sale, or distribution of certain toys and child
28 care articles containing bisphenol-A or specific types of
29 phthalates in concentrations exceeding 0.1 per cent and to
30 require manufacturers to use safer alternatives when replacing
31 phthalates in their products; and
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1 WHEREAS, it is also imperative for the public health,
2 safety, and welfare to declare that aspartame and its derivative
3 compounds, in all of their trade names, are poisonous and
4 deleterious food additives due to their neurotoxic and
5 carcinogenic metabolites; and
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7 WHEREAS, federal authorities do not intend to nor have they
8 expressed any intention to occupy and preempt areas of concern
9 regarding the prohibition of toxic, neurotoxic, carcinogenic,
10 poisonous, or deleterious food and product additives; and
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12 WHEREAS, to provide more information and weigh the pros and
13 cons of using products containing chemicals such as phthalates
14 and aspartame, a task force should be convened to investigate
15 the risks involved in the use and consumption of the chemicals;
16 now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2008, that the Department of Health (DOH) is
21 requested to convene a task force to investigate the risks
22 involved in the use and consumption of phthalates, bisphenol-A,
23 and aspartame in the products we use especially those used by
24 young children; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
27 representative of:
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- 29 (1) DOH;
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31 (2) The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
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33 (3) The University of Hawaii (UH), John A. Burns School of
34 Medicine (JABSOM);
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36 (4) The UH Department of Chemistry;
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38 (5) The House of Representatives Committee on Health;
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40 (6) The Senate Committee on Health;
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42 (7) The House of Representatives Committee on Consumer
43 Protection and Commerce;
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- 1 (8) The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
- 2 and Affordable Housing;
- 3
- 4 (9) The Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians;
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- 6 (10) The Hawaii Food Industry Association; and
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- 8 (11) Advocate experts (three members);
- 9

10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force explore positive
13 and negative aspects of phthalates, bisphenol-A, and aspartame
14 and any other potentially hazardous substances as determined by
15 the task force; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
18 submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior
19 to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the actions
20 taken, information gathered, and any recommendations made by the
21 task force as well as any proposed legislation; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
25 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Dean of JABSOM, Dean
26 of the UH Department of Chemistry, President of the Hawaii
27 Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and Chairperson of the
28 Hawaii Food Industry Association.

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OFFERED BY: Josh Green M.D.

John M. Nye

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