

MAR 12 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE USE OF BISPHENOL-A AND PHTHALATES IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S TOYS AND CHILDCARE PRODUCTS.

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
7 bind 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, many have called for a prohibition on the
24 manufacture, sale, or distribution of certain toys and child
25 care articles containing bisphenol-A or specific types of
26 phthalates in concentrations exceeding 0.1 per cent and to
27 require manufacturers to use safer alternatives when replacing
28 phthalates in their products; and
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30 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate the
31 risks involved in the use of products containing chemicals such
32 as phthalates and bisphenol-A, and the possibility of
33 prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and distribution of toys and



1 childcare products that contain these toxic chemicals; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
6 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a task
7 force to investigate the risks involved in the use of phthalates
8 and bisphenol-A in consumer products, including children's toys
9 and childcare products; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also study the
12 feasibility of prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and
13 distribution of toys and childcare products that contain toxic
14 chemicals, such as phthalates and bisphenol-A; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership
17 include a representative from:

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19 (1) The Department of Health;

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21 (2) The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;

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23 (3) The University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
24 Medicine;

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26 (4) The House of Representatives Committee on Health;

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28 (5) The Senate Committee on Health;

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30 (6) The House of Representatives Committee on Consumer
31 Protection and Commerce;

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33 (7) The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
34 and Affordable Housing; and

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36 (8) Two experts in the field of toxicology; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
39 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
40 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the
41 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations
42 made by the task force as well as any proposed legislation; and
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S.R. NO. 68

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
3 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Dean of the
4 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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