
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTED BY HOSPITALS TO REDUCE
ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.

1 WHEREAS, premature birth is the leading cause of newborn
2 death, accounting for twenty-four per cent of infant deaths in
3 the first month of life; and
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5 WHEREAS, the average cost of medical care in the first year
6 of life is ten times greater for a premature infant than for an
7 infant born full term; and
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9 WHEREAS, one out of every eight babies born in Hawaii are
10 born prematurely; and
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12 WHEREAS, more than eight per cent of babies born in Hawaii
13 are late pre-term births, with only thirty-four to thirty-six
14 completed weeks of gestation; and
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16 WHEREAS, late pre-term births account for much of the
17 increase in premature births in the past decade; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 objective proposed by the
20 United States Department of Health and Human Services is that no
21 more than 7.6 per cent of babies will be born pre-term; and
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23 WHEREAS, premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong
24 consequences including cerebral palsy, mental retardation,
25 chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss; and
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27 WHEREAS, late pre-term infants have a higher incidence of
28 morbidity and mortality when compared with term infants; and
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30 WHEREAS, the rate of births by cesarean delivery has risen
31 from more than eighteen per cent in 1999 to twenty-six per cent
32 in 2006; and
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34 WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and
35 Gynecologists guidelines call for confirmation of thirty-nine



1 weeks gestation for single births for elective induction of
2 labor under most circumstance; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2009, that the Department of Health is requested to review
7 and assess:

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9 (1) The criteria used by hospitals and physicians for
10 indications to elective inductions or cesarean
11 sections; and

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13 (2) The policies and procedures implemented by hospitals
14 to reduce elective cesarean sections and induction of
15 labor; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
18 requested to report its findings to the Legislature no later
19 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
20 of 2010; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include:

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24 (1) Statistics on the number of hospitals having policies
25 and procedures relating to elective cesarean sections
26 and inductions of labor prior to thirty-nine completed
27 weeks of gestation;

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29 (2) Statistics on the number of hospitals with policies
30 and procedures in line with the American College of
31 Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines; and

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33 (3) Recommendations, including suggested legislation, on
34 improving Hawaii's rate of premature births; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:

