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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION, INCLUDING VACCINES FOR FEMALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 9 TO 26 YEARS, TO BETTER PREVENT AND ERADICATE CERVICAL CANCER CASES IN HAWAI'I.

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2009 reports that 11,270 women in the United States will contract cervical cancer and 4,070 are estimated to die from this disease; and

WHEREAS, the report states that the "Society's prevention programs focus on preventing the use of tobacco products; educating individuals... about the relationship between weight control, diet, physical activity, and cancer; reducing excessive sun exposure; and encouraging individuals to follow the Society's guidelines for preventive screenings for colorectal and cervical cancers, as well as vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) to prevent cervical cancer"; and

WHEREAS, many pharmaceutical companies are developing HPV vaccinations, but the report points out that "the FDA has approved Gardasil, the first vaccine developed to prevent the most common HPV infections that cause cervical cancer for use in females aged 9 to 26 years"; and

WHEREAS, in January 2007, "the American Cancer Society Guideline for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Use to Prevent Cervical Cancer and Its Precursors ...show that the vaccine has the potential to prevent up to 70% of the more than 11,000 invasive cervical cancers and 3,600 cervical cancer deaths in the US each year. Routine use of the HPV vaccine, coupled with continued screening according to ACS guidelines, has the potential to greatly reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer"; and

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WHEREAS, the ACS stresses the importance of early detection to give patients the greatest chance of survival; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, Regular Session of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to redouble its efforts to disseminate methods such as Pap and HPV tests and vaccinations for females between the ages of 9 - 26 years to better prevent the incidence of cervical cancer cases in Hawai`i.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health, the American Cancer Society-Hawaii Chapter, and the Hawaii Medical Association.

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