

MAR 05 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ENDORSE XYLITOL FOR ITS
PREVENTIVE AND THERAPEUTIC HEALTH AND ORAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Dental Workforce report released on
2 December 11, 2008 at the annual meeting of the Hawaiian Islands
3 Oral Health Task Force concludes that "Hawaii is struggling with
4 issues related to access to oral health for all residents as
5 well as for vulnerable populations, a shortage or
6 maldistribution of dental practitioners, poor oral health among
7 many subpopulations, and funding an optimal oral health care
8 system"; and
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10 WHEREAS, there are approximately five hundred studies on
11 PubMed that support xylitol as an effective preventative and
12 therapeutic agent; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1988, the Finnish Dental Association officially
15 endorsed the use of xylitol, followed by the Swedish Dental
16 Association the next year, and the British Dental Association in
17 1990, and many other national dental associations, except the
18 American Dental Association; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Arizona State Dental Hygienists' Association
21 and the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association officially
22 endorsed the use of xylitol in 2008; and
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24 WHEREAS, xylitol has been used in foods since the 1960's
25 and is approved in the United States as a food additive in
26 unlimited quantity for foods with special dietary purposes, and
27 is safe for use by those with diabetes or hypoglycemia; and
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29 WHEREAS, xylitol, with its extremely low glycemic index of
30 7 (compared to sugar at 100), has been shown to be effective in
31 the prevention and treatment of diabetes and in weight
32 management; and
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1 WHEREAS, xylitol has proven efficacy in the prevention and
2 treatment of upper respiratory problems; and
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4 WHEREAS, xylitol's chemical structure has been shown to
5 cause harmful bacteria and irritants to lose their ability to
6 adhere to infected membranes, rendering them unable to grow and
7 multiply, and thereby allowing normal washing and cleansing
8 mechanisms to flush away the bacteria without causing resistant
9 strains or "superbugs"; and
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11 WHEREAS, studies show that when administered to children in
12 chewing gum or syrup, xylitol produces a reduced rate of otitis
13 (ear infection) and a lower nasopharyngeal carriage rate of
14 pneumococci; and
15

16 WHEREAS, dental caries remain the most common chronic
17 disease of children, despite being largely preventable; and
18

19 WHEREAS, once established, dental cavities require
20 treatment at a high cost in terms of both money and physical
21 discomfort; and
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23 WHEREAS, many adults also have untreated dental caries,
24 even though these caries are highly preventable; and
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26 WHEREAS, xylitol's five-carbon structure keeps it from
27 being metabolized by oral bacteria, stopping the production of
28 decay causing acids in the mouth, and preventing the formation
29 of sticky bacterial buildup on the teeth; and
30

31 WHEREAS, xylitol's naturally sweet and cool taste increases
32 salivary flow, optimizing the pH level in the mouth, increasing
33 the natural washing action of the teeth and tissues, and further
34 promoting dental health; and
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36 WHEREAS, research has shown that new mothers having a high
37 incidence of S. mutans bacteria (caries-inducing), who used
38 xylitol gum regularly between three and twenty-four months after
39 delivery, showed a significant impact on the ability of the
40 bacteria to establish in the babies' mouths, reducing caries by
41 seventy per cent; and
42

43 WHEREAS, since humans themselves produce up to ten grams of
44 xylitol in their bodies from other food sources daily, xylitol



1 is not a foreign or artificial substance, but is a normal part
2 of everyday metabolism and is widely distributed throughout
3 nature in small amounts; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1983, the Joint Expert Committee on Food
6 Additives of two United Nations agencies (the Food and
7 Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization) gave
8 an "acceptable daily intake" definition of "not specified" for
9 xylitol, indicating its safety and that no special consumption
10 limits were needed for xylitol; and
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12 WHEREAS, as indicated by previous studies, incorporating
13 xylitol into health care programs for children, the elderly, and
14 other populations (such as the institutionalized) will
15 substantially reduce dental caries, upper respiratory
16 infections, and ear infections, and lower glycemic indices,
17 thereby assisting in the maintenance of good health for the
18 people of this State; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
23 is requested to endorse xylitol for its preventive and
24 therapeutic health and oral health benefits for all populations
25 of the State of Hawaii; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
29 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Keister

David J. Lee
Norman Sakuma
Carl Johnson
Ken [unclear]

