
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS
AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.

1 WHEREAS, premature birth is one of the leading causes of
2 infant death, accounting for thirty-seven percent of infant
3 deaths in the first year of life; and
4

5 WHEREAS, more than twelve percent of babies in Hawaii are
6 born prematurely, at less than thirty-seven completed weeks of
7 gestation; and
8

9 WHEREAS, late preterm births, which occur between thirty-
10 four and thirty-six weeks of gestation, account for more than
11 nine percent of babies born in Hawaii; and
12

13 WHEREAS, late preterm infants have a higher incidence of
14 morbidity and mortality when compared with term infants; and
15

16 WHEREAS, premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong
17 problems including cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities,
18 breathing and respiratory problems, and vision and hearing loss;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, the rate of births by cesarean delivery in the
22 United States has risen from more than twenty-one percent in
23 1996 to more than thirty-two percent in 2007; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the rate of labor induction in the United States
26 has more than doubled since 1990, with more than twenty-two
27 percent of pregnant woman inducing labor in 2006; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and
30 Gynecologists guidelines call for the confirmation of thirty-
31 nine weeks of gestation for single births prior to the elective,



1 or non-medically indicated, induction of labor under most
2 circumstances; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 objective proposed by the
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services is that no
6 more than 7.6 percent of babies will be born preterm; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent
9 Resolution No. 215, S.D. 1, during the 2009 Regular Session to
10 request the Department of Health to review and assess the
11 policies and procedures implemented by hospitals to reduce
12 elective cesarean sections and inductions of labor; and

13
14 WHEREAS, in response to this resolution, the Department of
15 Health convened a workgroup that found some variation in the
16 guidelines used by hospitals in the State regarding elective
17 inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries, wide variation in
18 the awareness of hospitals to changes in the rates of elective
19 inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries performed among
20 hospitals in the State, and a general lack of training
21 opportunities relating to elective inductions and preterm
22 cesarean deliveries; and

23
24 WHEREAS, despite efforts to reduce preterm births, there
25 remains a need for standardized guidelines and procedures among
26 hospitals in Hawaii that are current with accepted best
27 practices and guidelines, better awareness of the risks of
28 elective inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries, and
29 increased training opportunities among hospital personnel
30 relating to elective inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries;
31 now, therefore,

32
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health,
36 in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, the John
37 A. Burns School of Medicine, and representatives from health
38 plan providers in the State, is requested to convene a Preterm
39 Birth Task Force that is to be administratively attached to the
40 Department of Health to develop best practices recommended by
41 either the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
42 or the Institute for Healthcare Improvement for reducing
43 elective inductions and cesarean deliveries; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Preterm Birth Task Force is
2 requested to:

- 3
- 4 (1) Review laws and rules governing the licensure of
5 hospitals in the State;
6
- 7 (2) Determine if all hospitals with obstetric units in the
8 State should be required to develop standardized
9 policies and procedures that conform with the American
10 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the
11 Institute for Healthcare Improvement guidelines for
12 reducing elective inductions and cesarean deliveries;
13
- 14 (3) Research and maintain current interdisciplinary best
15 practices training materials;
16
- 17 (4) Maintain a learning collaboration model for health
18 care practitioners, physicians, staff, and registrars
19 of hospitals, community health centers, and other
20 institutions in the State;
21
- 22 (5) Develop and implement a public awareness campaign to
23 educate the public on the risks of elective preterm
24 cesarean sections and induction of labor, and track
25 data on the effectiveness of the campaign;
26
- 27 (6) Track data relating to the rate of preterm births in
28 Hawaii and the effect that changes in the rate of
29 preterm births may have on infant morbidity and
30 mortality; and
31
- 32 (7) Examine other issues that may be related to elective
33 preterm cesarean sections and induction of labor using
34 trends and other information obtained through public
35 health records; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Preterm Birth Task Force be
38 composed of the following individuals:

- 39
- 40 (1) A representative of the Family Health Services
41 Division of the Department of Health, to be appointed
42 by the Director of Health;
43



- 1 (2) A representative from the Department of Human
2 Services, Med-QUEST Division, to be appointed by the
3 Director of Human Services;
- 4
- 5 (3) A representative from Healthcare Association of
6 Hawaii;
- 7
- 8 (4) A representative from March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter;
- 9
- 10 (5) A representative from Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
11 Coalition of Hawai'i; and
- 12
- 13 (6) Two physicians specializing in obstetrics or
14 gynecology; and
- 15

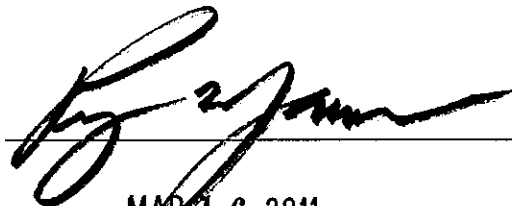
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
17 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
18 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
19 2012 on the Task Force's findings and recommendations, including
20 any proposed legislation, at which time the Task Force shall
21 cease to exist; and

22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
25 Director of Human Services, John A. Burns School of Medicine,
26 Healthcare Association of Hawaii, March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter,
27 and Health Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i.

28
29
30

OFFERED BY:


MAY 16 2011

