

JAN 28 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND DENTAL HYGIENE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO INCLUDE BREASTFEEDING IN EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM TO EDUCATE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO ADVOCATE AND PROMOTE BREASTFEEDING AMONG EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics,
2 human breast milk is preferred for all infants, including even
3 premature and sick babies, with rare exceptions; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, a lack
6 of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life
7 contributes to over one million avoidable child deaths each
8 year; and
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10 WHEREAS, human breast milk is safe and contains antibodies
11 that help protect infants from common childhood illnesses,
12 including diarrhea and pneumonia which are the two primary
13 causes of child mortality worldwide; and
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15 WHEREAS, recent studies show that babies who are
16 exclusively breastfed for the first six months are less likely
17 to develop ear infections, diarrhea, and respiratory illnesses
18 and may also be less likely to develop childhood obesity; and
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20 WHEREAS, breastfeeding also benefits mothers by inducing a
21 lack of menstruation, which is a natural method of birth
22 control; reducing risks of breast and ovarian cancer later in
23 life; helping women return to their pre-pregnancy weight faster;
24 and lowering rates of obesity; and
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26 WHEREAS, breastfeeding is inexpensive, convenient, and is
27 the food least likely to cause allergic reactions in babies; and
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1 WHEREAS, the act of breastfeeding contributes greatly to
2 developing and cementing the lifelong bond between mother and
3 child and also increases self-esteem in mothers; and
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5 WHEREAS, breastfeeding reduces health care costs for both
6 mothers and their babies; and
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8 WHEREAS, although almost every mother can breastfeed
9 successfully, those who might lack the confidence to breastfeed
10 need the encouragement and practical support of their families,
11 health care providers, and employers; and
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13 WHEREAS, health care professionals play a crucial role in
14 providing the supportive education and encouragement necessary
15 to convince expectant mothers to breastfeed their babies; now,
16 therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the John A. Burns
21 School of Medicine and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
22 of the University of Hawaii are encouraged to include
23 breastfeeding in an educational curriculum to educate medical
24 professionals to advocate and promote breastfeeding among
25 expectant and new mothers; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the John A.
29 Burns School of Medicine and the Dean of the School of Nursing
30 and Dental Hygiene of the University of Hawaii and the Director
31 of Health.
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