

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION
AWARENESS MONTH" IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the one of the most commonly
2 occurring genetic conditions, with one in every seven hundred
3 thirty-three live births resulting in a baby born with Down
4 syndrome, and it is the most commonly occurring chromosomal
5 condition; and

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7 WHEREAS, advancements in Down syndrome research have given
8 doctors, therapists, and educators new tools to care for
9 individuals with Down syndrome so that they may live healthy and
10 fulfilling lives; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the many achievements,
13 abilities, and unique communication needs of individuals with
14 Down syndrome; and

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16 WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome are living longer than
17 ever before and the life expectancy of individuals with Down
18 syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades -- from 25
19 years in 1983 to 60 years today; and

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21 WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome are often fully
22 integrated in social and educational settings and increasingly
23 go on to graduate from high school and attend postsecondary
24 education programs; and

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26 WHEREAS, while placement in the workforce remains a
27 challenge, career opportunities have improved, and adults with
28 Down syndrome have attained a variety of positions, bringing
29 enthusiasm, reliability, and dedication to their jobs; and

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31 WHEREAS, advancements in education, research, and advocacy
32 have had a tremendous impact on the opportunities for
33 individuals with Down syndrome to live functional, successful
34 lives; however, further education and awareness for Down
35 syndrome is needed; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
3 that the month of October of each year be recognized as "Down
4 Syndrome Education Awareness Month" in Hawaii; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
7 pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of
8 2004, is requested to develop guidelines for a lifelong learning
9 approach for individuals with Down syndrome and to extend sign
10 language instruction with speech to students with Down syndrome
11 who can hear; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
15 Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of
16 the Charter School Administrative Office, Executive Director of
17 the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii Down
18 Syndrome Congress, and Down Syndrome Ohana of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____

