

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TASK FORCE TO REVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING PILOT PROJECTS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SYSTEM IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, neuroscience research demonstrates that a child's
2 early years are the most crucial in the child's cognitive,
3 social, emotional, and physical development; and
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5 WHEREAS, early screening, identification, and intervention
6 for physical impairments, developmental delays, and psychosocial
7 problems can dramatically improve children's outcomes and have a
8 critical influence on school success and family functioning; and
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10 WHEREAS, early screening, identification, and intervention
11 result in significant cost savings; and
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13 WHEREAS, potential savings realized when a child does not
14 require special education programs can be as much as \$14,000 per
15 child per school year; and
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17 WHEREAS, it is critical to provide each child with ongoing
18 access to quality primary health care that includes screening
19 for developmental delays, to ensure that the effects of these
20 delays are mitigated as soon as possible; and
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22 WHEREAS, many of Hawaii's children do not have access to
23 quality primary health care and many parents are unaware of or
24 choose not to use available primary health care services;
25 therefore, many of Hawaii's children do not receive proper
26 screening, identification, evaluation, or referrals for
27 correction or treatment; and
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29 WHEREAS, Aloha United Way has implemented two pilot
30 projects on Oahu that provide early childhood developmental
31 screening; and
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1 WHEREAS, preliminary findings from the projects show that
2 twenty-one percent of the children screened have a problem that
3 requires follow-up services; and
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5 WHEREAS, the projects indicate a need for a comprehensive
6 outreach component to ensure families are aware of the need for
7 screening; and
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9 WHEREAS, the projects also indicate that a case management
10 component is important so that children who require follow-up
11 services can receive treatment; and
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13 WHEREAS, early screening services are necessary to
14 identify, mitigate, and treat developmental disabilities as
15 early as possible, and an integrated, universal developmental
16 screening system would clearly benefit the children of this
17 State; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
21 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
22 Developmental Screening Task Force to review Aloha United Way's
23 Early Childhood Developmental Screening pilot projects and the
24 University of Hawai'i at Manoa Center on Disability Studies'
25 evaluation of those Early Childhood Developmental Screening
26 pilot projects; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
29 requested to report, based on the Task Force's review, its
30 findings and recommendations for the development of an
31 integrated, universal early childhood developmental screening
32 system in Hawaii; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit
35 its report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
36 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chairperson
3 of the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai'i
4 at Manoa, and President of Aloha United Way.
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OFFERED BY: Erzanne Chun Adland
Mike Gabban

