
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT METHODS OF IMPROVING
THE PREVENTION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES.

1 WHEREAS, teenage mothers face significant challenges in
2 trying to provide for their children, with many less likely to
3 complete high school or obtain any post-secondary education; and
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5 WHEREAS, many teenage mothers end up in poverty and reliant
6 on welfare, especially during the critically important
7 developmental years of the child; and
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9 WHEREAS, by far the greatest harm from teenage pregnancy is
10 experienced by the children, who are at heightened risk of being
11 born prematurely or at low birth weight, raising their
12 probabilities of infant death, blindness, deafness, chronic
13 respiratory problems, mental retardation, mental illness, and
14 cerebral palsy; and
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16 WHEREAS, young parents are often less able to provide an
17 environment for the early cognitive stimulation that a child
18 needs for adequate brain development and consequently, children
19 born to teenage mothers tend to do worse in school, are more
20 likely to repeat a grade, perform worse on standardized tests,
21 and are ultimately less likely to complete high school; and
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23 WHEREAS, society pays a price for teenage childbearing
24 because children of teenage parents exhibit higher rates of
25 economic inactivity and crime, resulting in taxpayer costs
26 through lost tax revenues, public assistance expenditures, and
27 costs associated with health care, foster care, and criminal
28 justice; and
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30 WHEREAS, teenage pregnancy prevention programs improve the
31 lives and future prospects of children and families and help



1 ensure that children are born into stable families that are
2 committed to and prepared for the demanding task of raising the
3 next generation; and
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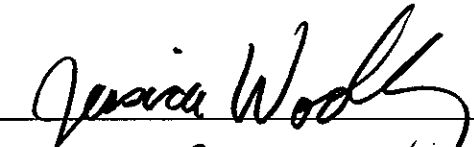
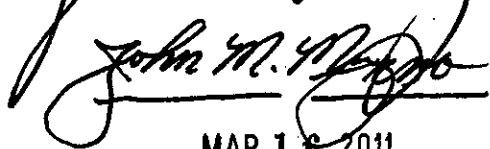
5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Youth Services Network provides
6 training and technical assistance for teenage pregnancy
7 prevention programs; and
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9 WHEREAS, a collaboration between public schools and youth-
10 oriented, community-based programs can strengthen and expand
11 efforts to prevent teenage pregnancies; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
16 is requested to collaborate with the Hawaii Youth Services
17 Network and other community-based organizations to develop and
18 implement methods to improve the prevention of teenage
19 pregnancies; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
23 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the
24 Executive Director of the Hawaii Youth Services Network.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 16 2011

