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## HOUSE 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  
32 ensure that children are born into stable families that are  
33 committed to and prepared for the demanding task of raising the  
34 next generation; and



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WHEREAS, the Hawaii Youth Services Network provides training and technical assistance for teenage pregnancy prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, a collaboration between public schools and youth-oriented, community-based programs can strengthen and expand efforts to prevent teenage pregnancies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Education is requested to collaborate with the Hawaii Youth Services Network and other community-based organizations to develop and implement methods to improve the prevention of teenage pregnancies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii Youth Services Network.

OFFERED BY:

*Jessica Woolley*  
*John M. ...*

MAR 16 2011

