
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, cleft lip and cleft palate are birth defects that
2 affect the upper lip and roof of the mouth; and

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4 WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes Foundation, about
5 6,800 babies in the United States are born with oral-facial
6 clefts each year; and

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8 WHEREAS, these oral-facial birth defects occur more often
9 among people of Asian ancestry and certain groups of Native
10 Americans; and

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12 WHEREAS, the causes of these birth defects are not well
13 understood, but research shows that these birth defects occur
14 very early in fetal development; and

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16 WHEREAS, children who are born with a cleft lip or cleft
17 palate typically experience feeding difficulties, frequent ear
18 infections and hearing loss (which often resolves with
19 treatment), speech difficulties, and dental problems; and

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21 WHEREAS, treatment options include surgery, usually
22 conducted in several stages, to close the lip and palate, and
23 the first surgery is typically performed during the child's
24 first year; and

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26 WHEREAS, with treatment, most children with cleft lip or
27 cleft palate do remarkably well with a full recovery,
28 particularly if treatment is rendered soon after birth or in
29 early childhood; and

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31 WHEREAS, the standard of care for children with cleft lip
32 or cleft palate should include treatment by a team of
33 specialists, including pediatricians, plastic surgeons, dental
34 specialists, otolaryngologists (ear, nose and throat
35 specialist), speech-language specialists, audiologists (hearing



1 specialists), and social workers, to ensure that all aspects of
2 treatment are coordinated; and

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4 WHEREAS, more programs are needed to ensure that families
5 with children suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate
6 throughout Hawaii are provided with the resources and
7 information needed to obtain optimum care for children with
8 these birth defects; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2011, that the Department of Health, in partnership with
13 local experts, is requested to create a Cleft Lip and Cleft
14 Palate Center of Excellence; and

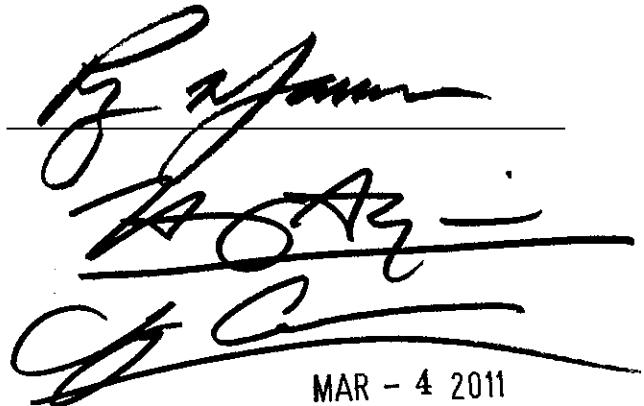
15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate
17 Center of Excellence should promote awareness of cleft lip and
18 cleft palate birth defects and provide resources and information
19 to families with children affected by these birth defects; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
22 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
24 2012 detailing strategies to establish the Cleft Lip and Cleft
25 Palate Center of Excellence along with a discussion of the
26 Department's statewide collaborative efforts to promote the
27 Center throughout Hawaii; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:


The text contains three handwritten signatures in black ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are stylized and difficult to read. The date "MAR - 4 2011" is printed in the bottom right corner of the signature area.

MAR - 4 2011

