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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS  
AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.

1           WHEREAS, premature birth is one of the leading causes of  
2 infant death, accounting for thirty-seven percent of infant  
3 deaths in the first year of life; and  
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5           WHEREAS, more than twelve percent of babies in Hawaii are  
6 born prematurely, at less than thirty-seven completed weeks of  
7 gestation; and  
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9           WHEREAS, late preterm births, which occur between thirty-  
10 four and thirty-six weeks of gestation, account for more than  
11 nine percent of babies born in Hawaii; and  
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13           WHEREAS, late preterm infants have a higher incidence of  
14 morbidity and mortality when compared with term infants; and  
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16           WHEREAS, premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong  
17 problems including cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities,  
18 breathing and respiratory problems, and vision and hearing loss;  
19 and  
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21           WHEREAS, the rate of births by cesarean delivery in the  
22 United States has risen from more than twenty-one percent in  
23 1996 to more than thirty-two percent in 2007; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the rate of labor induction in the United States  
26 has more than doubled since 1990, with more than twenty-two  
27 percent of pregnant woman inducing labor in 2006; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and  
30 Gynecologists guidelines call for the confirmation of thirty-  
31 nine weeks of gestation for single births prior to the elective,



1 or non-medically indicated, induction of labor under most  
2 circumstances; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 objective proposed by the  
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services is that no  
6 more than 7.6 percent of babies will be born preterm; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent  
9 Resolution No. 215, S.D. 1, during the 2009 Regular Session to  
10 request the Department of Health to review and assess the  
11 policies and procedures implemented by hospitals to reduce  
12 elective cesarean sections and inductions of labor; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in response to this resolution, the Department of  
15 Health convened a workgroup that found some variation in the  
16 guidelines used by hospitals in the State regarding elective  
17 inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries, wide variation in  
18 the awareness of hospitals to changes in the rates of elective  
19 inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries performed among  
20 hospitals in the State, and a general lack of training  
21 opportunities relating to elective inductions and preterm  
22 cesarean deliveries; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, despite efforts to reduce preterm births, there  
25 remains a need for standardized guidelines and procedures among  
26 hospitals in Hawaii that are current with accepted best  
27 practices and guidelines, better awareness of the risks of  
28 elective inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries, and  
29 increased training opportunities among hospital personnel  
30 relating to elective inductions and preterm cesarean deliveries;  
31 now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
36 Health, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services,  
37 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and representatives from  
38 health plan providers in the State, is requested to convene a  
39 Preterm Birth Task Force that is to be administratively attached  
40 to the Department of Health to develop best practices  
41 recommended by either the American College of Obstetricians and  
42 Gynecologists or the Institute for Healthcare Improvement for  
43 reducing elective inductions and cesarean deliveries; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Preterm Birth Task Force is  
2 requested to:

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- 4 (1) Review laws and rules governing the licensure of  
5 hospitals in the State;
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- 7 (2) Determine if all hospitals with obstetric units in the  
8 State should be required to develop standardized  
9 policies and procedures that conform with the American  
10 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the  
11 Institute for Healthcare Improvement guidelines for  
12 reducing elective inductions and cesarean deliveries;
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- 14 (3) Research and maintain current interdisciplinary best  
15 practices training materials;
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- 17 (4) Maintain a learning collaboration model for health  
18 care practitioners, physicians, staff, and registrars  
19 of hospitals, community health centers, and other  
20 institutions in the State;
- 21
- 22 (5) Develop and implement a public awareness campaign to  
23 educate the public on the risks of elective preterm  
24 cesarean sections and induction of labor, and track  
25 data on the effectiveness of the campaign;
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- 27 (6) Track data relating to the rate of preterm births in  
28 Hawaii and the effect that changes in the rate of  
29 preterm births may have on infant morbidity and  
30 mortality; and
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- 32 (7) Examine other issues that may be related to elective  
33 preterm cesarean sections and induction of labor using  
34 trends and other information obtained through public  
35 health records; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Preterm Birth Task Force be  
38 composed of the following individuals:

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- 40 (1) A representative of the Family Health Services  
41 Division of the Department of Health, to be appointed  
42 by the Director of Health;
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- 1 (2) A representative from the Department of Human  
2 Services, Med-QUEST Division, to be appointed by the  
3 Director of Human Services;  
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- 5 (3) A representative from Healthcare Association of  
6 Hawaii;  
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- 8 (4) A representative from March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter;  
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- 10 (5) A representative from Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies  
11 Coalition of Hawai'i; and  
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- 13 (6) Three physicians specializing in obstetrics,  
14 gynecology, and pediatrics, respectively; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
17 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
18 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
19 2012 on the Task Force's findings and recommendations, including  
20 any proposed legislation, at which time the Task Force shall  
21 cease to exist; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
25 Director of Human Services, John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
26 Healthcare Association of Hawaii, March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter,  
27 and Health Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i.  
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