
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE FOURTH WEEK OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS
"REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK," TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC
AWARENESS, CONVERSATION, AND SUPPORT FOR REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS AWARENESS.

1 WHEREAS, women who plan their pregnancies are more likely
2 to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health
3 of their children; and
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5 WHEREAS, family planning services improve health care
6 outcomes and wellness for women and their families; and
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8 WHEREAS, increased access to family planning is directly
9 linked to a decline in maternal and infant mortality rates, and
10 women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times
11 more likely to die after a live birth than are women who receive
12 even minimal prenatal care; and
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14 WHEREAS, when pregnancies are intended and planned, there
15 is greater motivation for women and their partners to maintain
16 positive health behaviors, often leading to improved birth and
17 infant outcomes; and
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19 WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better prevent
20 unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they want to
21 have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services and
22 supplies could prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce
23 abortions; and
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25 WHEREAS, nearly forty-five percent of all pregnancies in
26 Hawaii are unintended; and
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28 WHEREAS, women with unintended pregnancies in Hawaii are
29 less likely to be using contraception when becoming pregnant,
30 and less likely to be taking daily vitamins during pregnancy.



1 They were also more likely to have a short birth interval,
2 obtain late or no prenatal care, smoke, and use drugs during
3 pregnancy; and
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5 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing
6 women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits
7 of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian
8 cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to
9 heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic
10 inflammatory disease; and
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12 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are
13 particularly pronounced in the rates of contraception usage,
14 unintended pregnancies, maternal mortality, and sexually
15 transmitted infections, and these disparities reveal barriers to
16 access to sexual education, medical care, and contraceptives;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, a majority of voters in Hawaii believe that
20 matters related to women's reproductive rights, including
21 contraception and abortion, are personal issues that should be
22 decided by women with their families, health care providers, or
23 clergy members; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the fourth week of January
28 of every year shall be known and designated as "Reproductive
29 Rights Awareness Week," to encourage public awareness,
30 conversation, and support for reproductive rights statewide; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
34 Director of Health.

