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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HOSPITALS WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII TO INCREASE THE  
RATES OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE.

1           WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a national epidemic; in  
2 Hawaii, childhood obesity increased by thirty-eight percent from  
3 1999 and 2009; as a result of the increased risks related to  
4 obesity, this generation of children may be the first generation  
5 not to outlive their parents due to unhealthy lifestyles; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, breastfeeding helps protect against childhood  
8 obesity. A baby's risk of becoming an overweight child goes down  
9 with each month of breastfeeding. In the US, most babies start  
10 breastfeeding, but within the first week, half have already been  
11 given formula, and by 9 months, only 31 percent of babies are  
12 breastfeeding at all. In Hawaii, only 21 percent of babies are  
13 breastfed exclusively through the recommended 6 months; and  
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15           WHEREAS, babies who are fed formula and stop breastfeeding  
16 before six months of age have higher risks of obesity, diabetes,  
17 respiratory and ear infections, and sudden infant death  
18 syndrome, and tend to require more doctor visits,  
19 hospitalizations, and prescriptions; and  
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21           WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends  
22 babies be fed nothing but breast milk for the first 6 months and  
23 continue breastfeeding for at least 1 year; and  
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25           WHEREAS, improving the health of mothers and their children  
26 is a primary goal of the Centers for Disease Control and  
27 Prevention; and protecting, promoting, and supporting  
28 breastfeeding, with its many known benefits for infants,  
29 children, and mothers is a key strategy toward accomplishing  
30 this goal; and  
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32           WHEREAS, "Healthy People 2020" targets include national  
33 objectives to increase the percentage of mothers who breastfeed

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1 their babies; and a recently released report card illustrates  
2 how Hawaii fared:

	National Goal	Hawaii
3 In early postpartum	81.9%	85.1%
4 At 6 months	60.6%	51.1%
5 At 12 months	34.1%	32.4%
6 Exclusively through 3 months	46.2%	42.6%
7 Exclusively through 6 months	25.5%	20.7%;

8  
9  
10 now, therefore;

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12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms that as a State  
13 we will work to increase the overall rates of exclusive  
14 breastfeeding at hospital discharge; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals in the State of  
17 Hawaii are urged to have a written breastfeeding policy that  
18 supports exclusive breastfeeding; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals that implement  
21 exclusive breast feeding policies in the State of Hawaii are  
22 urged to provide continuous staff training to ensure  
23 implementation of the breastfeeding policies; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
27 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
28 Governor, the Director of Health, President, Chief Executive  
29 Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Hawaii  
30 Breastfeeding Coalition, Hawaii's maternity care hospitals,  
31 Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, and the Hawaii Chapter of the  
32 American Academy of Pediatrics.

33  
34  
35 OFFERED BY   
36 BY REQUEST

JAN 22 2013

HR19

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: URGING HOSPITALS WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII TO INCREASE THE RATES OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE.

PURPOSE: This concurrent resolution is to promote practices as early as possible in life that are associated with optimal childhood development.

MEANS: Adoption of the proposed concurrent resolution.

JUSTIFICATION: Breastfeeding helps protect against childhood obesity. A baby's risk of becoming an overweight child goes down with each month of breastfeeding. In the US, most babies start breastfeeding, but within the first week, half have already been given formula, and by 9 months, only 31 percent of babies are breastfeeding at all. In Hawaii, only 21 percent of babies are breastfed exclusively through the recommended 6 months.

Babies who are fed formula and stop breastfeeding before six months of age have higher risks of obesity, diabetes, respiratory and ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome, and tend to require more doctor visits, hospitalizations, and prescriptions.

Impact on the public: Increased awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding per the recommended guidelines.

Impact on the department and other agencies: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM

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DESIGNATION: HTH 495.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.