

JAN 24 2013

SENATE 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
14

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
20

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

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%;

9
10 now, therefore;

11
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

15
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 OFFERED BY:
35 BY REQUEST
36

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

DESIGNATION: HTH 495.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.