
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A FETAL
ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
TO COORDINATE AND DEVELOP FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER
INFORMATION, EDUCATION, POLICIES, AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is one of the most
2 underdiagnosed developmental disabilities in Hawaii and across
3 the country; and
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5 WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately forty thousand newborns
6 per year are affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and
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8 WHEREAS, according to Hawaii pregnancy risk assessment
9 monitoring system data, one thousand three hundred women who
10 gave birth in Hawaii during the years 2009 to 2011 reported that
11 they drank alcohol in the last trimester of their pregnancy, and
12 two hundred women per year reported binge drinking during their
13 last trimester; and
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15 WHEREAS, there are more cases of fetal alcohol spectrum
16 disorder than down syndrome, cerebral palsy, sudden infant death
17 syndrome, cystic fibrosis, and spina bifida combined; and
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19 WHEREAS, the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure are
20 lifelong and can include physical, mental, behavioral, and
21 learning disabilities; and
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23 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol exposure is the leading cause of
24 intellectual disabilities in the United States, and individuals
25 with diagnosed or undiagnosed fetal alcohol exposure often
26 suffer from secondary disabilities such as child abuse and
27 neglect, family separation, multiple foster placements, school
28 related failure, juvenile delinquency, job instability,
29 depression, aggression, and other serious mental health
30 disorders; and
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1 WHEREAS, the intellectual disabilities and secondary
2 disabilities come at a high cost to the individual, their
3 families, and society; and

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5 WHEREAS, caring for someone with fetal alcohol spectrum
6 disorder costs between \$1,400,000 and \$1,500,000 over a
7 lifetime; and

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9 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is completely
10 preventable, and the devastating effects of fetal alcohol
11 exposure can be substantially reduced by early diagnosis and
12 appropriate, effective intervention; and

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14 WHEREAS, poor coordination of resources hampers prevention,
15 diagnosis, and service delivery; and

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17 WHEREAS, fourteen states nationwide have established
18 permanent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder coordinators who serve
19 as key educational, informational, and coordinative links
20 between departments and agencies dealing with persons with fetal
21 alcohol spectrum disorder; and

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23 WHEREAS, the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder-specific
24 services that exist in Hawaii are very minimal and the State
25 does not have any coordinated effort to address the issue; and

26
27 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is a statewide
28 public health concern that has service, policy, and economic
29 implications for virtually all state departments; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
34 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
35 Health is encouraged to establish a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
36 Disorder Interagency Coordinating Council within the
37 Department's Family Health Services Division to coordinate and
38 develop fetal alcohol spectrum disorder information, education,
39 policies, and support services statewide; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council comprise no more
42 than seventeen members as follows; provided that each member
43 representing a state agency be a person with the authority to
44 influence policy in the member's respective agency:



- 1
2 (1) At least three individuals who have fetal alcohol
3 spectrum disorder or who are immediate relatives or
4 guardians of an individual with fetal alcohol spectrum
5 disorder, with at least one member from a neighbor
6 island, to be selected by the Governor without the
7 advice and consent of the Senate;
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- 9 (2) At least one representative of the Maternal and Child
10 Health Branch of the Department of Health;
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- 12 (3) At least one representative of the Children with
13 Special Health Needs Branch of the Department of
14 Health;
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- 16 (4) At least one representative of the Developmental
17 Disabilities Division of the Department of Health;
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- 19 (5) At least one representative of the Alcohol and Drug
20 Abuse Division of the Department of Health;
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- 22 (6) At least one representative of the Adult Mental Health
23 Division of the Department of Health;
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- 25 (7) At least one representative of the Special Education
26 Section of the Department of Education;
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- 28 (8) At least one representative of the Comprehensive
29 Student Support Services Section of the Department of
30 Education;
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- 32 (9) At least one representative of the Judiciary;
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- 34 (10) At least one representative of the Office of Youth
35 Services of the Department of Human Services;
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- 37 (11) At least one representative of the Social Services
38 Division of the Department of Human Services;
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- 40 (12) At least one representative of an agency responsible
41 for the recruitment, training, or support of foster
42 and adoptive families, to be selected by the Governor
43 without the advice and consent of the Senate;
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1 (13) At least one representative of a private nonprofit
2 group concerned with services for individuals with
3 fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in this State, to be
4 selected by the Governor without the advice and
5 consent of the Senate; and
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7 (14) At least one individual from the Native Hawaiian
8 Health Care Systems; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is encouraged to
11 meet at least quarterly; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is requested to
14 consider:
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16 (1) Increasing statewide awareness of fetal alcohol
17 spectrum disorder in the general public and in at-risk
18 populations;
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20 (2) Expanding the statewide capacity to identify and
21 intervene with at-risk women who are pregnant and
22 parenting;
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24 (3) Advocating, mobilizing, and coordinating state and
25 community resources to assist persons and families
26 affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to receive
27 the support they need;
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29 (4) Improving statewide service delivery to individuals
30 and families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum
31 disorder;
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33 (5) Facilitating development and implementation of a
34 comprehensive, statewide system of care for the
35 prevention, identification, surveillance, and
36 treatment of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and
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38 (6) Developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan
39 to address the full range of lifelong fetal alcohol
40 spectrum disorder prevention, identification, care,
41 treatment, and education; and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Council are
44 requested to serve without compensation, and cost efficient



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1 means such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing should be
2 utilized whenever possible; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is requested to
5 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
6 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
11 of Health, Superintendent of Education, Director of Human
12 Services, Administrative Director of the Courts, and Executive
13 Director of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.
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