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## HOUSE 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

4  
5 WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately forty thousand newborns  
6 per year are affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and

7  
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

14  
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

18  
19 WHEREAS, the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure are  
20 lifelong and can include physical, mental, behavioral, and  
21 learning disabilities; and

22  
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

31  
32 WHEREAS, the intellectual disabilities and secondary  
33 disabilities come at a high cost to the individual, their  
34 families, and society; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, caring for someone with fetal alcohol spectrum  
3 disorder costs between \$1,400,000 and \$1,500,000 over a  
4 lifetime; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is completely  
7 preventable, and the devastating effects of fetal alcohol  
8 exposure can be substantially reduced by early diagnosis and  
9 appropriate, effective intervention; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, poor coordination of resources hampers prevention,  
12 diagnosis, and service delivery; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, fourteen states nationwide have established  
15 permanent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder coordinators who serve  
16 as key educational, informational, and coordinative links  
17 between departments and agencies dealing with persons with fetal  
18 alcohol spectrum disorder; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder-specific  
21 services that exist in Hawaii are very minimal and the State  
22 does not have any coordinated effort to address the issue; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is a statewide  
25 public health concern that has service, policy, and economic  
26 implications for virtually all state departments; now,  
27 therefore,

28  
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
31 Session of 2014, that the Department of Health is encouraged to  
32 establish a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Interagency  
33 Coordinating Council within the Department's Family Health  
34 Services Division to coordinate and develop fetal alcohol  
35 spectrum disorder information, education, policies, and support  
36 services statewide; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council comprise no more  
39 than seventeen members as follows; provided that each member  
40 representing a state agency be a person with the authority to  
41 influence policy in the member's respective agency:

- 42  
43 (1) At least three individuals who have fetal alcohol  
44 spectrum disorder or who are immediate relatives or



1 guardians of an individual with fetal alcohol spectrum  
2 disorder, with at least one member from a neighbor  
3 island, to be selected by the Governor without the  
4 advice and consent of the Senate;

5  
6 (2) At least one representative of the Maternal and Child  
7 Health Branch of the Department of Health;

8  
9 (3) At least one representative of the Children with  
10 Special Health Needs Branch of the Department of  
11 Health;

12  
13 (4) At least one representative of the Developmental  
14 Disabilities Division of the Department of Health;

15  
16 (5) At least one representative of the Alcohol and Drug  
17 Abuse Division of the Department of Health;

18  
19 (6) At least one representative of the Adult Mental Health  
20 Division of the Department of Health;

21  
22 (7) At least one representative of the Special Education  
23 Section of the Department of Education;

24  
25 (8) At least one representative of the Comprehensive  
26 Student Support Services Section of the Department of  
27 Education;

28  
29 (9) At least one representative of the Judiciary;

30  
31 (10) At least one representative of the Office of Youth  
32 Services of the Department of Human Services;

33  
34 (11) At least one representative of the Social Services  
35 Division of the Department of Human Services;

36  
37 (12) At least one representative of an agency responsible  
38 for the recruitment, training, or support of foster  
39 and adoptive families, to be selected by the Governor  
40 without the advice and consent of the Senate;

41  
42 (13) At least one representative of a private nonprofit  
43 group concerned with services for individuals with  
44 fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in this State, to be



1 selected by the Governor without the advice and  
2 consent of the Senate; and

- 3  
4 (14) At least one individual from the Native Hawaiian  
5 Health Care Systems; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is encouraged to  
8 meet at least quarterly; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is requested to  
11 consider:

12  
13 (1) Increasing statewide awareness of fetal alcohol  
14 spectrum disorder in the general public and in at-risk  
15 populations;

16  
17 (2) Expanding the statewide capacity to identify and  
18 intervene with at-risk women who are pregnant and  
19 parenting;

20  
21 (3) Advocating, mobilizing, and coordinating state and  
22 community resources to assist persons and families  
23 affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to receive  
24 the support they need;

25  
26 (4) Improving statewide service delivery to individuals  
27 and families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum  
28 disorder;

29  
30 (5) Facilitating development and implementation of a  
31 comprehensive, statewide system of care for the  
32 prevention, identification, surveillance, and  
33 treatment of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and

34  
35 (6) Developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan  
36 to address the full range of lifelong fetal alcohol  
37 spectrum disorder prevention, identification, care,  
38 treatment, and education; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Council are  
41 requested to serve without compensation, and cost efficient  
42 means such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing should be  
43 utilized whenever possible; and  
44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council is requested to  
 2 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 3 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 4 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

5  
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,  
 8 Superintendent of Education, Director of Human Services,  
 9 Administrative Director of the Courts, and Executive Director of  
 10 the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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