
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON THE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING A SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE
SURCHARGE PROGRAM TO FUND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and tooth
2 decay in Hawaii have increased dramatically over the past
3 decade, and obesity-related medical expenditures in Hawaii were
4 calculated to be over \$470,000,000 in 2009 and are continuing to
5 increase; and

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7 WHEREAS, there is overwhelming evidence of the link between
8 obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay and the consumption of sugar-
9 sweetened beverages, including soft drinks, energy drinks, sweet
10 teas, and sports drinks; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to nutritional experts, sugar-sweetened
13 beverages offer little or no nutritional value, but massive
14 quantities of added sugars; and

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16 WHEREAS, a twenty-ounce bottle of soda contains the
17 equivalent of approximately sixteen teaspoons of sugar, yet the
18 American Heart Association recommends that Americans consume no
19 more than five to nine teaspoons of sugar per day; and

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21 WHEREAS, research shows that almost half of the extra
22 calories Americans consume in their diet comes from sugar-
23 sweetened beverages, with the average American drinking nearly
24 fifty gallons of sugar-sweetened beverages a year, the
25 equivalent of thirty-nine pounds of extra sugar every year; and

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27 WHEREAS, sugar is the primary and necessary factor in the
28 development of tooth decay; and

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30 WHEREAS, in addition to sugar, the acids found in beverages
31 like soda, energy drinks, and juice erode tooth enamel, making



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1 sugar-sweetened beverage consumption one of the most significant
2 contributors to dental caries in children; and
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4 WHEREAS, children from families of low socioeconomic status
5 have a significantly higher consumption of soda and other types
6 of sugar-sweetened beverages; and
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8 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Rethink Your Drink
9 Adolescent post-test survey, adolescents in Hawaii drink an
10 average of 8.6 cans, glasses, or bottles of sugar-sweetened
11 beverages per week, and nearly all boys (ninety-four percent)
12 and girls (ninety-three percent) consumed at least one serving
13 of a sugar-sweetened beverage in the past week; and
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15 WHEREAS, as experiences in state after state demonstrate
16 that higher cigarette taxes are one of the most effective ways
17 to reduce smoking among both youth and adults, as studies have
18 demonstrated that increasing the price of cigarettes directly
19 impacts consumer behavior by reducing consumption, which impact
20 may also be transferable to sugar-sweetened beverages; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
26 Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the benefits of
27 establishing a 1-cent per fluid ounce surcharge on the sale of
28 sugar-sweetened beverages to fund public health programs in the
29 State; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include information
32 on net operating costs and expected generated revenue that can
33 benefit public health programs in obesity, diabetes, and oral
34 health; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the
37 collection of fees for a sugar-sweetened beverage surcharge
38 program modeled after the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container
39 Program administered by the Department of Health; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by July 1, 2017, the Department
42 of Health and Office of the State Auditor are requested to



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1 provide specific data to the Legislative Reference Bureau on the
2 present system of fee collection and any relevant data to permit
3 the Legislative Reference Bureau to target its study and
4 complete it in a timely manner; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
7 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
8 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
9 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 the Regular Session of 2018; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of
14 the Legislative Reference Bureau, Director of Health, and
15 Director of Human Services.
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OFFERED BY:

B. L. Kobzacki

MAR 10 2017

