

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE 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

6  
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

11  
12           WHEREAS, according to nutritional experts, sugar-sweetened  
13 beverages offer little or no nutritional value, but massive  
14 quantities of added sugars; and

15  
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

20  
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

26  
27           WHEREAS, sugar is the primary and necessary factor in the  
28 development of tooth decay; and

29  
30           WHEREAS, in addition to sugar, the acids found in beverages  
31 like soda, energy drinks, and juice erode tooth enamel, making



# S.C.R. NO. 155

1 sugar-sweetened beverage consumption one of the most significant  
2 contributors to dental caries in children; and

3  
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

7  
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

14  
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,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
26 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the benefits  
27 of establishing a 1-cent per fluid ounce surcharge on the sale  
28 of sugar-sweetened beverages to fund public health programs in  
29 the State; and

30  
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

40  
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by July 1, 2017, the Department  
42 of Health and Office of the State Auditor are requested to



# S.C.R. NO. 155

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  
 5

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  
 11

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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 17  
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