

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S
HEALTHY START PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, a healthy home is imperative for families of
2 newborns throughout the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, positive experiences in early childhood can
5 promote child health and development; and

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7 WHEREAS, home visiting programs provide individually
8 tailored support, resources, and information to expectant
9 parents and families with young children; and

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11 WHEREAS, in-home support is especially important for
12 families at risk of child maltreatment and neglect; and

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14 WHEREAS, home visiting services address the risk of child
15 abuse by fostering family functioning, promoting child health
16 and development, enhancing positive parenting skills, and
17 linking parents to community resources including health and
18 mental health services, early childhood education, childcare,
19 family literacy, employment, and social services; and

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21 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Healthy Start program, run by the
22 Department of Health, is the State's primary home visiting child
23 abuse prevention program; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Healthy Start program was previously a
26 statewide model but, due to budget restrictions, home visitation
27 services are now limited to one site in Leeward Oahu and one
28 site in Hilo on the Island of Hawaii; and

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30 WHEREAS, despite these budget cuts, the home visiting
31 program remains of vital importance to at-risk families; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 2017, the home visiting program conducted
2 nearly 11,000 home visits, reaching 128 pregnant women, 712
3 parents and guardians, and 801 children in 840 households; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Health received a
6 highly competitive Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home
7 Visiting grant from the United States Department of Health and
8 Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Health projects that during the
12 current two year grant period, from October 1, 2018, through
13 September 30, 2020, the combination of federal and state funding
14 will allow the Department to reach more than 1,700 participants
15 through the home visiting program; and
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17 WHEREAS, the benefits of the home visiting program were
18 recently noted in a longitudinal study of Hawaii Healthy Start
19 conducted by Johns Hopkins University, where the ten year
20 outcomes revealed substantial benefits for a key subset of
21 targeted families, extended across a range of health, parenting,
22 and child development outcomes; and
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24 WHEREAS, the findings from the Johns Hopkins researchers
25 are of great relevance for future Healthy Start development and
26 research and also emphasize the need to continue, expand, and
27 improve the Healthy Start Program, including the home visiting
28 program; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
32 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is
33 urged to continue expanding and improving its Healthy Start
34 Program, including reinstatement of a statewide network of home
35 visiting services; and
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S.C.R. NO. 84

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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