
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S
HOME VISITING 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 home visiting 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 home visiting program was previously a
26 statewide model but, due to budget restrictions, home visitation
27 services were reduced to one site in Leeward Oahu and one site
28 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 the program conducted
19 by Johns Hopkins University, where the ten year outcomes
20 revealed substantial benefits for a key subset of targeted
21 families, extended across a range of health, parenting, and
22 child development outcomes; and
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24 WHEREAS, the findings from the Johns Hopkins researchers
25 are of great relevance for future home visiting program
26 development and research and also emphasize the need to
27 continue, expand, and improve the home visiting program; now,
28 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, that the
32 Department of Health is urged to continue expanding and
33 improving its home visiting program, including reinstatement of
34 a statewide network of home visiting services; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

