

JAN 24 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BRANCH, TO STUDY THE ROLE OF GESTATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS, GENTLE BIRTHING PRACTICES, ADULT WELLNESS EDUCATION, DOMESTIC HARMONY AWARENESS, APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT TOUCH, AND THE PRACTICE OF HEALING BIRTH TRAUMA, AND THEIR CONNECTION TO PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS SUCH AS SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND OBESITY.

1 WHEREAS, in memory of Hawaii residents Daysha Aiona Aka and
2 Sarah Marie Faye whose passions for life were cut short as
3 victims of domestic violence, this body shares in the public
4 outcry regarding the need to educate, collaborate, and develop
5 strategies to address domestic violence; and

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7 WHEREAS, this body finds that societal issues such as
8 domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, and obesity,
9 involve important public policy concerns that require study and
10 deliberation in order to identify strategies to reduce their
11 prevalence in Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, it has been recognized that wellness education
14 teaches healthy development and peaceful coexistence of family
15 members and thus decreases incidences of substance abuse,
16 alcoholism, and domestic violence; and

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18 WHEREAS, recent scientific findings in a variety of
19 disciplines have contributed to an emerging understanding of the
20 primal developmental needs of individuals from conception
21 through early infancy; and

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23 WHEREAS, it is relatively well-known and accepted that the
24 health and well-being of an unborn child is linked to the health
25 and well-being of the mother; and

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27 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the experience of birth
28 imprints the basic personality of a child; and

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30 WHEREAS, it has been asserted that domestic abuse and
31 turmoil during the prenatal period, labor, birth, or in a



1 newborn child's domestic environment can negatively impact the
2 child's development; and

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4 WHEREAS, science suggests that appropriate and sufficient
5 touch and human contact between an infant child and the child's
6 caregivers is integral to a child's healthy development; and

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8 WHEREAS, the right of a woman to choose the course of a
9 pregnancy also extends the right of a woman to choose where she
10 will labor and to give birth with qualified caregivers of her
11 choice; and

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13 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the increased incidence
14 of inducement and narcotic use during labor, as well as the
15 increase in surgical births, are related to an increase in pre-
16 term births and long-term health conditions, including a greater
17 propensity to over use drugs throughout life, thereby indicating
18 a need for consistent science-based protocols and policies in
19 this field; and

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21 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the positive impact of
22 trained birthing professionals and, in particular, birth doulas,
23 who are trained and experienced childbirth professionals who
24 provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational
25 support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges that a growing body of
29 science from diverse fields supports further study of the roles
30 of gestational environments, gentle birthing practices, adult
31 wellness education, domestic harmony awareness, appropriate and
32 sufficient touch, and the practice of healing birth trauma, and
33 the impact these practices may have on reducing the occurrence
34 of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, and obesity;
35 now, therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
39 that the Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch,
40 is requested to study the roles of gestational environments,
41 gentle birthing practices, adult wellness education, domestic
42 harmony awareness, appropriate and sufficient touch, and the
43 practice of healing birth trauma, and the impact these practices



1 may have on reducing the occurrence of substance abuse,
2 alcoholism, domestic violence, and obesity; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
5 Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to report its
6 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
7 legislation, to the Senate no later than twenty days prior to
8 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
12 Health, and the Chief of the Maternal and Child Health Branch.

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OFFERED BY: *Suzanne Crown Oakland*
By Request

