
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USING PROCEEDS FROM THE
CIGARETTE TAX FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CENTER FOR
CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH.

1 WHEREAS, the condition of a person's heart is detrimentally
2 affected by smoking which is a behavior that, if halted, can
3 bring about substantial health benefits; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the toxicity of the smoke inhaled by a smoker can
6 cause severe harm to a person's blood, heart, and blood vessels
7 that form the cardiovascular system; and
8

9 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians and others of Polynesian ancestry
10 are particularly susceptible to atherosclerosis, the build up of
11 a waxy plaque on the inside of blood vessels; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Center for Cardiovascular Research (CCR) at
14 the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) is specifically
15 devoted to studying and understanding causes, prevention, and
16 treatment of heart disease; and
17

18 WHEREAS, CCR has been notably successful in attracting
19 federal funding and is looking to expand its role in training
20 investigators and developing new treatments for heart disease;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, CCR is also serving as a valuable incubator for
24 new technologies and for training biomedical workers, both of
25 which can contribute to the development of a lucrative
26 biotechnology industry in Hawaii; and
27

28 WHEREAS, despite the success of CCR so far, additional
29 funding is necessary to develop its potential as a world-class
30 venue for the advancement of life-saving procedures and new
31 technologies; and



1 WHEREAS, since most of the University of Hawaii System (UH)
2 is facing a time of shrinking economic resources, it would be
3 prudent to establish a dedicated source of funding for CCR
4 independent of the UH budget allocations; and

5
6 WHEREAS, there is a clear nexus between smoking, a leading
7 cause of heart disease, and the work of CCR which aims to
8 address heart disease; now, therefore,

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that JABSOM, in conjunction with
13 the Department of Taxation (DOTAX), is requested to study the
14 feasibility of increasing the tax on cigarettes for the benefit
15 of CCR without impacting the current cigarette tax distributions
16 to the general fund; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include determining:

- 19 (1) The expected level of annual revenue as a result of
- 20 the tax increase; and
- 21
- 22 (2) The expected ability to use the additional revenue to
- 23 leverage additional federal grant moneys;
- 24
- 25

26 and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JABSOM and DOTAX are requested
29 to jointly submit a report of their findings to the Legislature
30 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
31 Session of 2010; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the John A.
35 Burns School of Medicine, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii
36 at Manoa, Chairperson of the University of Hawaii Board of
37 Regents, and Director of Taxation.

38
39 OFFERED BY: Calvin K. King

MAR 18 2009

