

MAR 18 2009

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTED BY HOSPITALS TO REDUCE  
ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.

1 WHEREAS, premature birth is the leading cause of newborn  
2 death, accounting for twenty-four per cent of infant deaths in  
3 the first month of life; and

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5 WHEREAS, the average cost of medical care in the first year  
6 of life is ten times greater for a premature infant than for an  
7 infant born full term; and

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9 WHEREAS, one out of every eight babies born in Hawaii are  
10 born prematurely; and

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12 WHEREAS, more than eight per cent of babies born in Hawaii  
13 are late pre-term births, with only thirty-four to thirty-six  
14 completed weeks of gestation; and

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16 WHEREAS, late pre-term births account for much of the  
17 increase in premature births in the past decade; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 objective proposed by the  
20 United States Department of Health and Human Services is that no  
21 more than 7.6 per cent of babies will be born pre-term; and

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23 WHEREAS, premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong  
24 consequences including cerebral palsy, mental retardation,  
25 chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss; and

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27 WHEREAS, late pre-term infants have a higher incidence of  
28 morbidity and mortality when compared with term infants; and

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30 WHEREAS, the rate of births by cesarean delivery has risen  
31 from more than eighteen per cent in 1999 to twenty-six per cent  
32 in 2006; and



WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines call for confirmation of thirty-nine weeks gestation for single births for elective induction of labor under most circumstance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to review and assess:

- (1) The criteria used by hospitals and physicians for indications to elective inductions or cesarean sections; and
- (2) The policies and procedures implemented by hospitals to reduce elective cesarean sections and induction of labor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to report its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include:

- (1) Statistics on the number of hospitals having policies and procedures relating to elective cesarean sections and inductions of labor prior to thirty-nine completed weeks of gestation;
- (2) Statistics on the number of hospitals with policies and procedures in line with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines; and
- (3) Recommendations, including suggested legislation, on improving Hawaii's rate of premature births; and



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

