
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

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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, in consultation with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, 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 certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
4 and the Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of
5 Hawaii.