HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH.

WHEREAS, women face a multitude of health risks that affect not only their own well-being, but the well-being of their children; and

WHEREAS, minority women are disproportionately affected by health conditions, including tobacco-related cancers, heart disease, depression, and reproductive health risks; and

WHEREAS, the additional responsibilities women have undertaken in the last 60 years, both inside and outside the home, have led to increased health risks such as heart disease and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, state government can increase its support for women's health and can make a significant difference in improving the status of women's health; and

WHEREAS, Women's Health Month is a time dedicated to raising public consciousness about health care and issues unique to women, and improving the health and well-being of women in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about the role women can play in disease prevention and treatment, and educating others will result in better health in their families and in Hawaii overall; and

WHEREAS, recognition of health issues unique to women and differences in health and health care experiences across cultures and age groups among women is critical to the development of strategies for improving the health care and quality of life for women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the incidence of cervical cancer and number of deaths from cervical cancer have significantly decreased in the last 40 years primarily as a result of early detection, and early detection can only occur when women are aware of the risks; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Women's Health Month is to maximize public awareness of women's health issues, empower women to be their own health advocates, reduce health care disparities, and promote the physical and emotional well-being of women in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Women's Health Month activities need not be costly or complicated to have a positive and tangible effect on the lives of women; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women celebrated its first annual Women and Family Wellness Day in Hilo on September 13, 2008; and

WHEREAS, events such as these offer an opportunity for local community partners to work collaboratively for the benefit of all of Hawaii's women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that this body recognizes October as Women's Health Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that organizations that participate in Women's Health Month shall incorporate events designed to raise awareness of, and educate the public about women's health issues; and that the month of events will include education workshops, health fairs, lectures, fitness activities, and other special events; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body applauds all women who take an active role in carrying out the goals of educating others about healthier lifestyles, prevention, and treatment; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, and Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

OFFERED BY: MAR 1 6 2011

HR HMS 2011-2463