

MAR 08 2011

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, cleft lip and cleft palate are birth defects that  
2 affect the upper lip and roof of the mouth; and  
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4 WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes Foundation, about  
5 6,800 babies in the United States are born with oral-facial  
6 clefts each year; and  
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8 WHEREAS, these oral-facial birth defects occur more often  
9 among people of Asian ancestry and certain groups of Native  
10 Americans; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the causes of these birth defects are not well  
13 understood, but research shows that these birth defects occur  
14 very early in fetal development; and  
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16 WHEREAS, children who are born with a cleft lip or cleft  
17 palate typically experience feeding difficulties, frequent ear  
18 infections and hearing loss (which often resolves with  
19 treatment), speech difficulties, and dental problems; and  
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21 WHEREAS, treatment options include surgery, usually  
22 conducted in several stages, to close the lip and palate, and  
23 the first surgery is typically performed during the child's  
24 first year; and  
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26 WHEREAS, with treatment, most children with cleft lip or  
27 cleft palate do remarkably well with a full recovery,  
28 particularly if treatment is rendered soon after birth or in  
29 early childhood; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the standard of care for children with cleft lip  
32 or cleft palate should include treatment by a team of  
33 specialists, including pediatricians, plastic surgeons, dental  
34 specialists, otolaryngologists (ear, nose and throat  
35 specialist), speech-language specialists, audiologists (hearing



specialists), and social workers, to ensure that all aspects of treatment are coordinated; and

WHEREAS, more programs are needed to ensure that families with children suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate throughout Hawaii are provided with the resources and information needed to obtain optimum care for children with these birth defects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Health, in partnership with local experts, is requested to create a Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Center of Excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Center of Excellence should promote awareness of cleft lip and cleft palate birth defects and provide resources and information to families with children affected by these birth defects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012 detailing strategies to establish the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Center of Excellence along with a discussion of the Department's statewide collaborative efforts to promote the Center throughout Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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