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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S  
HOME VISITING PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, a healthy home is imperative for families of  
2 newborns throughout the State; and

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4           WHEREAS, positive experiences in early childhood can  
5 promote child health and development; and

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7           WHEREAS, home visiting programs provide individually  
8 tailored support, resources, and information to expectant  
9 parents and families with young children; and

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11           WHEREAS, in-home support is especially important for  
12 families at risk of child maltreatment and neglect; and

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14           WHEREAS, home visiting services address the risk of child  
15 abuse by fostering family functioning, promoting child health  
16 and development, enhancing positive parenting skills, and  
17 linking parents to community resources including health and  
18 mental health services, early childhood education, childcare,  
19 family literacy, employment, and social services; and

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21           WHEREAS, Hawaii's home visiting program, run by the  
22 Department of Health, is the State's primary home visiting child  
23 abuse prevention program; and

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25           WHEREAS, Hawaii's home visiting program was previously a  
26 statewide model but, due to budget restrictions, home visitation  
27 services were reduced to one site in Leeward Oahu and one site  
28 in Hilo on the Island of Hawaii; and

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30           WHEREAS, despite these budget cuts, the home visiting  
31 program remains of vital importance to at-risk families; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in 2017, the home visiting program conducted  
2 nearly 11,000 home visits, reaching 128 pregnant women, 712  
3 parents and guardians, and 801 children in 840 households; and  
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5 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Health received a  
6 highly competitive Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home  
7 Visiting grant from the United States Department of Health and  
8 Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration;  
9 and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Health projects that during the  
12 current two year grant period, from October 1, 2018, through  
13 September 30, 2020, the combination of federal and state funding  
14 will allow the Department to reach more than 1,700 participants  
15 through the home visiting program; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the benefits of the home visiting program were  
18 recently noted in a longitudinal study of the program conducted  
19 by Johns Hopkins University, where the ten year outcomes  
20 revealed substantial benefits for a key subset of targeted  
21 families, extended across a range of health, parenting, and  
22 child development outcomes; and  
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24 WHEREAS, the findings from the Johns Hopkins researchers  
25 are of great relevance for future home visiting program  
26 development and research and also emphasize the need to  
27 continue, expand, and improve the home visiting program; now,  
28 therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
32 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is  
33 urged to continue expanding and improving its home visiting  
34 program, including reinstatement of a statewide network of home  
35 visiting services; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

