
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO LEAD A COORDINATED
INTERDEPARTMENTAL EFFORT TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF FETAL
ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING
DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION TO
ENSURE THE COORDINATION OF SUPPORT SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are a group of
2 conditions that result from prenatal alcohol exposure and can
3 lead to lifelong physical, behavioral, and functional
4 challenges; and

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6 WHEREAS, national data indicates that in the United States,
7 one in seven pregnancies involves alcohol exposure, and one in
8 twenty people lives with a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; and

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10 WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders affect families
11 and communities across the State, contributing to increased
12 health care needs, educational challenges, and social services
13 utilization; and

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15 WHEREAS, early detection, prevention, and coordinated
16 interventions are critical to improving outcomes for individuals
17 affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and their families;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, due to the complexity of diagnosing the spectrum
21 of conditions associated with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders,
22 along with a combination of issues including shame and stigma,
23 many individuals living with a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
24 in Hawaii struggle to obtain treatment; and

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26 WHEREAS, enhanced state-based coordination, including the
27 coordination of public education, professional training,
28 integrated services, and data collection, will ensure a more
29 effective and efficient response to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
30 Disorders; and

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1 WHEREAS, Act 192, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, required the
2 Department of Health to establish and administer a three-year
3 pilot program to implement a co-management system of care for
4 the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with a Fetal Alcohol
5 Spectrum Disorder; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
9 that the Department of Health is urged to lead a coordinated
10 interdepartmental effort to reduce the impact of Fetal Alcohol
11 Spectrum Disorders in the State; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, in
14 its coordinated effort, is requested to:

- 15
16 (1) Develop a plan, using the results and findings from
17 the three-year pilot program established pursuant to
18 Act 192, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, for interagency
19 collaboration to ensure the coordination of support
20 services for individuals and families affected by
21 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, including services
22 offered by the:
- 23 (A) Department of Health;
 - 24 (B) Department of Human Services;
 - 25 (C) Department of Education; and
 - 26 (D) Any other applicable agencies of the State;
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28 (2) Leverage resources by connecting local expertise and
29 national efforts to maximize impact;
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31 (3) Continue efforts to increase awareness of Fetal
32 Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by supporting statewide
33 education and public awareness campaigns that increase
34 community-based knowledge, reduce shame and stigma,
35 and provide higher-quality intervention services; and
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37 (4) Build capacity by developing and coordinating training
38 for health care professionals, educators, and
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1 multidisciplinary service providers on the screening,
2 detection, diagnosis, and management of Fetal Alcohol
3 Spectrum Disorders; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
6 urged to consult with relevant stakeholders, including families,
7 advocacy groups, service providers, and other state agencies, to
8 ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach to assisting persons
9 who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 requested to submit its plan for interagency collaboration,
13 along with its findings and recommendations, including any
14 proposed legislation and any necessary appropriations, to the
15 Legislature at least twenty days prior to the Regular Session of
16 2030; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
20 Director of Human Services, Superintendent of Education,
21 Executive Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, and
22 Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

