

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED PLAN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

1 WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are a
2 group of conditions that occur as a direct result of prenatal
3 alcohol exposure and often result in lifelong physical,
4 behavioral, and functional challenges; and
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6 WHEREAS, national data indicates that there is alcohol
7 exposure in one in seven pregnancies and approximately one in
8 twenty people suffer from FASD; and
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10 WHEREAS, approximately eight hundred forty babies born in
11 Hawaii each year have FASD; and
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13 WHEREAS, FASD negatively impacts families and communities
14 across Hawaii and contributes to increased health care needs,
15 educational challenges, and social service utilization at a cost
16 of approximately \$876,000,000 annually, which includes costs for
17 health care, special education, residential care, lost
18 productivity, and corrections; and
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20 WHEREAS, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities
21 Reauthorization Act of 2025, P.L. 119-44, (FASD Support Act)
22 will make \$12,000,000 available to address FASD needs; and
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24 WHEREAS, early identification, prevention, and coordinated
25 intervention are critical for improving outcomes for individuals
26 affected by FASD and their families; and
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28 WHEREAS, enhanced coordination by the Department of Health,
29 Department of Human Services, and Department of Education to
30 address the impacts of FASD will improve the State's response to



1 FASD and ensure better outcomes to Hawaii residents who are
2 affected by FASD and their families; and

3
4 WHEREAS, establishing a Statewide Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
5 Disorders Coordinator will help the State access federal funds,
6 support data collection and reporting, increase monitoring
7 efforts, and allow the State to better access outcomes and the
8 effectiveness of programs to reduce the impact of FASD; now,
9 therefore,

10
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
13 that the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and
14 Department of Education are requested to develop a coordinated
15 plan to address the impact of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders;
16 and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan is requested to
19 include:

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- 21 (1) The feasibility of establishing a Statewide Fetal
22 Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Coordinator to act as a
23 central coordinator for the State's efforts to reduce
24 the impact of FASD;
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26 (2) Strategies for drawing down federal funding available
27 under the FASD Support Act;
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29 (3) The feasibility of leveraging resources by connecting
30 local and national efforts to reduce the impact of
31 FASD;
 - 32
33 (4) Strategies for increasing awareness of FASD, including
34 support for statewide education and public awareness
35 campaigns to increase community-based knowledge,
36 reduce prevalence of alcohol exposure during
37 pregnancy, and provision of high-quality
38 interventions;
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40 (5) Strategies to build capacity for the treatment of FASD
41 and reduce the utilization of foster care and the
42 criminal justice system, including developing and



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1 coordinating training of health care professionals,
2 educators, and multidisciplinary service providers in
3 the screening, identification, diagnosis, and
4 management of FASD; and
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- 6 (6) Strategies to improve the quality of life of
7 individuals affected by FASD and their families,
8 including lowering economic barriers to early
9 intervention, appropriate accommodations, and support;
10 and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
13 Department of Human Services, and Department of Education are
14 requested to submit the coordinated plan and a report of their
15 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the Legislature no later than December 15, 2026;
17 and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
21 Congressional delegation, Governor, Director of Health, Director
22 of Human Services, and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: 

