

JAN 24 2007

---

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
BRANCH, TO STUDY THE ROLE OF GESTATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS,  
GENTLE BIRTHING PRACTICES, ADULT WELLNESS EDUCATION,  
DOMESTIC HARMONY AWARENESS, APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT  
TOUCH, AND THE PRACTICE OF HEALING BIRTH TRAUMA, AND THEIR  
CONNECTION TO PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS SUCH AS SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND OBESITY.

1           WHEREAS, in memory of Hawaii residents Daysha Aiona Aka and  
2 Sarah Marie Faye whose passions for life were cut short as  
3 victims of domestic violence, the Legislature shares in the  
4 public outcry regarding the need to educate, collaborate, and  
5 develop strategies to address domestic violence; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that societal issues such as  
8 domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, and obesity,  
9 involve important public policy concerns that require study and  
10 deliberation in order to identify strategies to reduce their  
11 prevalence in Hawaii; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, it has been recognized that wellness education  
14 teaches healthy development and peaceful coexistence of family  
15 members and thus decreases incidences of substance abuse,  
16 alcoholism, and domestic violence; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, recent scientific findings in a variety of  
19 disciplines have contributed to an emerging understanding of the  
20 primal developmental needs of individuals from conception  
21 through early infancy; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, it is relatively well-known and accepted that the  
24 health and well-being of an unborn child is linked to the health  
25 and well-being of the mother; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the experience of birth  
28 imprints the basic personality of a child; and



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44

WHEREAS, it has been asserted that domestic abuse and turmoil during the prenatal period, labor, birth, or in a newborn child's domestic environment can negatively impact the child's development; and

WHEREAS, science suggests that appropriate and sufficient touch and human contact between an infant child and the child's caregivers is integral to a child's healthy development; and

WHEREAS, the right of a woman to choose the course of a pregnancy also extends the right of a woman to choose where she will labor and to give birth with qualified caregivers of her choice; and

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the increased incidence of inducement and narcotic use during labor, as well as the increase in surgical births, are related to an increase in pre-term births and long-term health conditions, including a greater propensity to over use drugs throughout life, thereby indicating a need for consistent science-based protocols and policies in this field; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the positive impact of trained birthing professionals and, in particular, birth doulas, who are trained and experienced childbirth professionals who provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to the mother before, during, and just after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature acknowledges that a growing body of science from diverse fields supports further study of the roles of gestational environments, gentle birthing practices, adult wellness education, domestic harmony awareness, appropriate and sufficient touch, and the practice of healing birth trauma, and the impact these practices may have on reducing the occurrence of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, and obesity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to study the roles of gestational environments, gentle birthing



# S.C.R. NO. 8

1 practices, adult wellness education, domestic harmony awareness,  
2 appropriate and sufficient touch, and the practice of healing  
3 birth trauma, and the impact these practices may have on  
4 reducing the occurrence of substance abuse, alcoholism, domestic  
5 violence, and obesity; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
8 Maternal and Child Health Branch, is requested to report its  
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
15 Director of Health, and the Chief of the Maternal and Child  
16 Health Branch.

17  
18  
19

OFFERED BY: Therese Chinn Oakland  
By Request

