
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTED BY HOSPITALS TO REDUCE
ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS AND INDUCTION OF LABOR.

1 WHEREAS, premature birth is the leading cause of newborn
2 death, accounting for twenty-four per cent of infant deaths in
3 the first month of life; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the average cost of medical care in the first year
6 of life is ten times greater for a premature infant than for an
7 infant born full term; and
8

9 WHEREAS, one out of every eight babies born in Hawaii are
10 born prematurely; and
11

12 WHEREAS, more than eight per cent of babies born in Hawaii
13 are late pre-term births, with only thirty-four to thirty-six
14 completed weeks of gestation; and
15

16 WHEREAS, late pre-term births account for much of the
17 increase in premature births in the past decade; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Healthy People 2010 objective proposed by the
20 United States Department of Health and Human Services is that no
21 more than 7.6 per cent of babies will be born pre-term; and
22

23 WHEREAS, premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong
24 consequences including cerebral palsy, mental retardation,
25 chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss; and
26

27 WHEREAS, late pre-term infants have a higher incidence of
28 morbidity and mortality when compared with term infants; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the rate of births by cesarean delivery has risen
31 from more than eighteen per cent in 1999 to twenty-six per cent
32 in 2006; and

1
2 WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and
3 Gynecologists guidelines call for confirmation of thirty-nine
4 weeks gestation for single births for elective induction of
5 labor under most circumstance; now, therefore,
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health,
10 in consultation with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, is
11 requested to review and assess:
12

- 13 (1) The criteria used by hospitals and physicians for
14 indications to elective inductions or cesarean
15 sections; and
16
17 (2) The policies and procedures implemented by hospitals
18 to reduce elective cesarean sections and induction of
19 labor; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
22 requested to report its findings to the Legislature no later
23 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
24 of 2010; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include:
27

- 28 (1) Statistics on the number of hospitals having policies
29 and procedures relating to elective cesarean sections
30 and inductions of labor prior to thirty-nine completed
31 weeks of gestation;
32
33 (2) Statistics on the number of hospitals with policies
34 and procedures in line with the American College of
35 Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines; and
36
37 (3) Recommendations, including suggested legislation, on
38 improving Hawaii's rate of premature births; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
42 and the Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of
43 Hawaii.