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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING OSHA REGULATIONS  
ON THE USE OF HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM AND URGING OSHA TO  
DEVELOP SAFER ALTERNATIVES AND BAN HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM.

1 WHEREAS, hexavalent chromium, also known as Chrome 6, is  
2 highly toxic, hazardous, and a known carcinogen; and

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4 WHEREAS, the International Agency for Research on Cancer  
5 has determined that there is decisive evidence for the  
6 carcinogenicity of hexavalent chromium compounds in humans; and

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8 WHEREAS, hexavalent chromium is commonly used in commercial  
9 and industrial applications, including electroplating, welding,  
10 industrial paints, shipbuilding, processing of chromite ore,  
11 certain dying operations, wastewater treatment, certain inks,  
12 plastic colorants, stainless steel production operations,  
13 textile processing, and leather tanning; and

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15 WHEREAS, the adverse effects of exposure to hexavalent  
16 chromium include lung cancer, ulceration of the nasal passages,  
17 perforation of the nasal septum, asthma, allergic contact  
18 dermatitis, irritant dermatitis, and ulceration of the skin; and

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20 WHEREAS, Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
21 (OSHA) regulations limit acceptable levels for workplace  
22 exposure to hexavalent chromium to five micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> for a  
23 Time-Weighted Average of eight hours; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health  
26 Division, which is the state enforcement partner for OSHA, has  
27 adopted penalties for noncompliance with the OSHA standards but,  
28 due to a heavy workload, conducts inspections for hexavalent  
29 chromium violations only in response to complaints and not on a  
30 regular basis; and

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1 WHEREAS, safer industry and process-specific alternatives  
2 to hexavalent chromium exist; now, therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature  
7 supports vigorous enforcement of existing OSHA regulations on  
8 hexavalent chromium until the goal of banning its use is  
9 achieved; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges OSHA to  
12 adopt meaningful enforcement mechanisms for OSHA regulations  
13 regarding hexavalent chromium in the workplace; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recommends that  
16 OSHA work to develop and promote the use of safer alternatives  
17 to hexavalent chromium with the goal of eventually banning  
18 hexavalent chromium; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary for  
22 Occupational Safety and Health, the Director of Labor and  
23 Industrial Relations, and the Operations Manager of the Hawaii  
24 Occupational Safety and Health Division.

