
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, cleft lip and cleft palate are birth defects that
2 affect the upper lip and roof of the mouth; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the March of Dimes Foundation, about
5 6,800 babies in the United States are born with oral-facial
6 clefts each year; and
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8 WHEREAS, these oral-facial birth defects occur more often
9 among people of Asian ancestry and certain groups of Native
10 Americans; and
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12 WHEREAS, the causes of these birth defects are not well
13 understood, but research shows that these birth defects occur
14 very early in fetal development; and
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16 WHEREAS, children who are born with a cleft lip or cleft
17 palate typically experience feeding difficulties, frequent ear
18 infections and hearing loss (which often resolves with
19 treatment), speech difficulties, and dental problems; and
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21 WHEREAS, treatment options include surgery, usually
22 conducted in several stages, to close the lip and palate, and
23 the first surgery is typically performed during the child's
24 first year; and
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26 WHEREAS, with treatment, most children with cleft lip or
27 cleft palate do remarkably well with a full recovery,
28 particularly if treatment is rendered soon after birth or in
29 early childhood; and
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31 WHEREAS, the standard of care for children with cleft lip
32 or cleft palate should include treatment by a team of
33 specialists, including pediatricians, plastic surgeons, dental



1 specialists, otolaryngologists (ear, nose and throat
2 specialist), speech-language specialists, audiologists (hearing
3 specialists), and social workers, to ensure that all aspects of
4 treatment are coordinated; and

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6 WHEREAS, more programs are needed to ensure that families
7 with children suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate
8 throughout Hawaii are provided with the resources and
9 information needed to obtain optimum care for children with
10 these birth defects; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health,
15 in partnership with local experts, is requested to create a
16 Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Center of Excellence; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate
19 Center of Excellence should promote awareness of cleft lip and
20 cleft palate birth defects and provide resources and information
21 to families with children affected by these birth defects; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
24 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
25 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
26 2012 detailing strategies to establish the Cleft Lip and Cleft
27 Palate Center of Excellence along with a discussion of the
28 Department's statewide collaborative efforts to promote the
29 Center throughout Hawaii; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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35 OFFERED BY:

