

MAR 12 2012

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EACH YEAR AS AUTISM AWARENESS  
MONTH IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, this body finds that autism is part of a complex  
2 group of neurodevelopmental disorders, collectively called  
3 autism spectrum disorders; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, autism involves delays in and problems with social  
6 interactions, language, and a range of emotional, cognitive,  
7 motor, and sensory abilities that vary according to where the  
8 individual falls on the spectrum ranging from mild impairments  
9 to severe disabilities; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, the diagnosis of autism in an individual  
12 transcends all social, religious, socio-economic, and geographic  
13 boundaries; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, based on statistics reported by the United States  
16 Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism  
17 is growing at a startling rate of ten to seventeen percent per  
18 year; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
21 Prevention estimate that autism affects as many as one in every  
22 one hundred and ten children, and studies show that over the  
23 last twelve years, the prevalence of autism has dramatically  
24 increased by 289.5 percent; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, at the rate autism is growing, the Autism Society  
27 of America estimates that the prevalence of autism could reach  
28 four million Americans in the next decade; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Education's Special  
31 Education Section offers educational services to students with  
32 autism and works with families and students to develop an  
33 individualized education plan; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, in 1994, the Department of Education had seventy-  
3 one children, ages six to twenty-one years, with autism who were  
4 eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,  
5 and that number increased to 1,064 by 2010; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Department of Education served an  
8 additional two hundred thirty-four eligible, school-aged  
9 children with autism, ages three to five, through the  
10 Department's preschool special education programs; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the Department of Health provided intensive  
13 behavioral support services to one hundred sixty-five children  
14 with autism spectrum disorders, ages zero to three years,  
15 through its Early Intervention Services Section; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, early  
18 identification of developmental concerns allows parents to seek  
19 intervention during the crucial period of early development; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics - Hawaii  
22 Chapter released a position paper stating that there should be  
23 specific screening for autism spectrum disorders at eighteen,  
24 twenty-four, and thirty-six months of age and recommends that  
25 the screening be done through the use of the Modified Checklist  
26 for Autism in Toddlers; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
29 Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities launched  
30 a public awareness campaign called "Learn the Signs. Act  
31 Early.", which aims to educate parents about childhood  
32 development, including early warning signs of autism and other  
33 developmental disabilities, and encourages developmental  
34 screening and intervention; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Maternal Child Health Leadership  
37 Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program  
38 and autism groups in Hawaii are supporting and undertaking the  
39 "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, providing widespread information is necessary to  
42 educate parents, professionals, and the general public about  
43 autism, its effects, and the critical importance of early  
44 developmental screening and intervention; now, therefore,



1  
 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that this body proclaim the  
 5 month of April of each year as "Autism Awareness Month" in  
 6 Hawaii; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of April of every  
 9 year serve as a special opportunity to educate the people of  
 10 Hawaii about autism, to increase awareness of the importance of  
 11 screening through the "Learn the Signs. Act Early" campaign,  
 12 and to encourage families with children, ages eighteen to  
 13 twenty-four months, throughout the State of Hawaii to have  
 14 screenings at well child visits with their pediatric health care  
 15 provider; and

16  
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
 19 Director of Health, the Superintendent of Education, the State  
 20 Council on Developmental Disabilities, Autism Society, Autism  
 21 Speaks, Talk About Curing Autism, Hawaii Parent Training and  
 22 Information Center, Autism/PDD Family Support Group, Autism  
 23 Support for Kauai, Kauai Autism/PDD Family Support Group, Hawaii  
 24 Families As Allies, Autism Awareness Puna - A Family Support  
 25 Group, Military Parents Autism Support Group for all branches of  
 26 service, the Exceptional Family Member Program, Community  
 27 Children's Councils, and the Hawaii Maternal Child Health  
 28 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related  
 29 Disabilities Program.

30  
 31  
 32

OFFERED BY:           Suzanne Chun Oakland          

*[Signature]*

*Michelle Sidani*

*[Signature]*

*Clarence K. Fushikawa*

*Carol Fukushima*

*Amy de Bal*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*