

JAN 25 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING JANUARY 22-28, 2012 AS "REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
AWARENESS WEEK," TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AWARENESS,  
CONVERSATION, AND SUPPORT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
AWARENESS.

1           WHEREAS, women who plan their pregnancies are more likely  
2 to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health  
3 of their children; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, family planning services improve health care  
6 outcomes and wellness for women and their families; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, increased access to family planning is directly  
9 linked to a decline in maternal and infant mortality rates, and  
10 women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times  
11 more likely to die after a live birth than are women who receive  
12 even minimal prenatal care; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, when pregnancies are intended and planned, there  
15 is greater motivation for women and their partners to maintain  
16 positive health behaviors, often leading to improved birth and  
17 infant outcomes; and

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19           WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better prevent  
20 unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they want to  
21 have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services and  
22 supplies could prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce  
23 abortions; and

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25           WHEREAS, nearly forty-five per cent of all pregnancies in  
26 Hawaii are unintended; and

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28           WHEREAS, women with unintended pregnancies in Hawaii are  
29 less likely to be using contraception when becoming pregnant,



1 and less likely to be taking daily vitamins during pregnancy.  
 2 They were also more likely to have a short birth interval,  
 3 obtain late or no prenatal care, smoke, and use drugs during  
 4 pregnancy; and

5  
 6 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing  
 7 women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits  
 8 of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian  
 9 cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to  
 10 heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic  
 11 inflammatory disease; and

12  
 13 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are  
 14 particularly pronounced in the rates of contraception usage,  
 15 unintended pregnancies, maternal mortality, and sexually  
 16 transmitted infections, and these disparities reveal barriers to  
 17 access to sexual education, medical care, and contraceptives;  
 18 and

19  
 20 WHEREAS, a majority of voters in Hawaii believe that  
 21 matters related to women's reproductive rights, including  
 22 contraception and abortion, are personal issues that should be  
 23 decided by women with their families, health care providers, or  
 24 clergy members; now, therefore,

25  
 26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
 27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
 28 House of Representatives concurring, that the week of January 22  
 29 through 28, 2012, shall be known and designated as "Reproductive  
 30 Rights Awareness Week," to encourage public awareness,  
 31 conversation, and support for reproductive rights statewide; and

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 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the  
 35 Director of Health.

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 37  
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OFFERED BY:

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