
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN UMBILICAL
CORD BLOOD AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
2 Health and Human Services, blood from the umbilical cord and
3 placenta is unique because it contains a relatively large number
4 of blood-forming cells; and

5
6 WHEREAS, these cells may be potentially life-saving for
7 someone who has a disease such as leukemia, or lymphoma, or
8 certain inherited metabolic or immune system disorders; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program reports that
11 every year, thousands of people of all ages are diagnosed with
12 leukemia and other life-threatening diseases, and many of them
13 will die unless they get a bone marrow or umbilical cord blood
14 transplant from a matching donor; and

15
16 WHEREAS, many expectant parents are unfamiliar with the
17 options available to them when it comes to their infant's
18 umbilical cord blood, and as a result, an umbilical cord may be
19 discarded after a baby is born unless the baby's parents are
20 informed about umbilical cord blood banking and donation
21 options; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine recommends that women be
24 provided with a balanced perspective and clear information to
25 participate, actively and knowledgably, in the choice of whether
26 or how to donate umbilical cord blood; and

27
28 WHEREAS, a greater number of Hawaii residents need, among
29 other things, basic information regarding umbilical cord blood
30 and its benefits, the need for umbilical cord blood donors, and
31 the options and costs for ownership and future use of donated
32 umbilical cord blood; now, therefore,

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



1 Session of 2015, that the Department of Health is requested to
2 establish an umbilical cord blood awareness campaign that offers
3 standardized, objective information to expectant parents,
4 including but not limited to, the following:

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- 6 (1) What umbilical cord blood is;
- 7
- 8 (2) The value of umbilical cord blood stem cells,
9 including who can benefit from stem cells in umbilical
10 cord blood and medical treatments that use umbilical
11 cord blood;
- 12
- 13 (3) How umbilical cord blood is collected;
- 14
- 15 (4) The choices and options for preserving umbilical cord
16 blood stem cells, including:
 - 17
 - 18 (A) Donating umbilical cord blood to a public
19 umbilical cord blood bank;
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 - 21 (B) Storing umbilical cord blood in a private or
22 family blood bank;
 - 23
 - 24 (C) Saving umbilical cord blood for a directed
25 donation, such as a family member who has a
26 medical need; and
 - 27
 - 28 (D) Donating umbilical cord blood for research;
 - 29
- 30 (5) The differences between public umbilical cord blood
31 banking and private or family umbilical cord blood
32 banking;
- 33
- 34 (6) Current and future uses of umbilical cord blood; and
- 35
- 36 (7) Resources that provide information about umbilical
37 cord blood banking; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health shall
 2 submit a report of the actions taken to establish an umbilical
 3 cord blood awareness campaign, including findings and
 4 recommendations and any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
 5 no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular
 6 Session of 2016; and

7
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 9 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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 11
 12

OFFERED BY: *Fanny M. Ambler*

On

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