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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE USE AND CONSUMPTION OF PHTHALATES, BISPHENOL-A, AND ASPARTAME IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY BY YOUNG CHILDREN.

1           WHEREAS, many common ingredients used for the production of  
2 foods, textile, tools, and toys have been found to be toxic for  
3 human use or consumption; and  
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5           WHEREAS, phthalates, a class of chemicals used in polyvinyl  
6 chloride plastic to improve flexibility and in cosmetics to bind  
7 fragrance to the product, are also used in many products  
8 intended for use by infants and young children, including  
9 teethers, toys, and soft plastic books; and  
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11           WHEREAS, there is extensive scientific literature reporting  
12 the hormone-disrupting effect of phthalates and substantial  
13 evidence that levels of the phthalates of concern are found in  
14 humans at levels associated with adverse effects; and  
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16           WHEREAS, often such chemicals have a far greater  
17 devastating effect on children whose bodies are still in a  
18 rapidly developing state in this stage of life; and  
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20           WHEREAS, population studies show that virtually everyone  
21 carries some level of phthalates in their body; and  
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23           WHEREAS, for the general population, the oral route of  
24 exposure is considered a major route; and  
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26           WHEREAS, many have called for a prohibition on the  
27 manufacture, sale, or distribution of certain toys and child  
28 care articles containing bisphenol-A or specific types of  
29 phthalates in concentrations exceeding 0.1 per cent and to



1 require manufacturers to use safer alternatives when replacing  
2 phthalates in their products; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, it is also imperative for the public health,  
5 safety, and welfare to declare that aspartame and its derivative  
6 compounds, in all of their trade names, are poisonous and  
7 deleterious food additives due to their neurotoxic and  
8 carcinogenic metabolites; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, federal authorities do not intend to nor have they  
11 expressed any intention to occupy and preempt areas of concern  
12 regarding the prohibition of toxic, neurotoxic, carcinogenic,  
13 poisonous, or deleterious food and product additives; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, to provide more information and weigh the pros and  
16 cons of using products containing chemicals such as phthalates  
17 and aspartame, a task force should be convened to investigate  
18 the risks involved in the use and consumption of the chemicals;  
19 now, therefore,

20  
21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
23 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
24 Health (DOH) is requested to convene a task force to investigate  
25 the risks involved in the use and consumption of phthalates,  
26 bisphenol-A, and aspartame in the products we use especially  
27 those used by young children; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a  
30 representative of:

- 31  
32 (1) DOH;  
33  
34 (2) The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;  
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36 (3) The University of Hawaii (UH), John A. Burns School of  
37 Medicine (JABSOM);  
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39 (4) The UH Department of Chemistry;  
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41 (5) The House of Representatives Committee on Health;  
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43 (6) The Senate Committee on Health;  
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- 1 (7) The House of Representatives Committee on Consumer
- 2 Protection and Commerce;
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- 4 (8) The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
- 5 and Affordable Housing;
- 6
- 7 (9) The Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians;
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- 9 (10) The Hawaii Food Industry Association; and
- 10
- 11 (11) Advocate experts (three members);
- 12

13 and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force explore positive

16 and negative aspects of phthalates, bisphenol-A, and aspartame

17 and any other potentially hazardous substances as determined by

18 the task force; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to

21 submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior

22 to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the actions

23 taken, information gathered, and any recommendations made by the

24 task force as well as any proposed legislation; and

25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director

28 of Health, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Dean of

29 JABSOM, Dean of the UH Department of Chemistry, President of the

30 Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and Chairperson of

31 the Hawaii Food Industry Association.

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OFFERED BY: Josh Green M.D.

*John W. King*

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