
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO FORM A WORK GROUP TO
EXPLORE THE NEED TO BAN OR BETTER LABEL PRODUCTS CONTAINING
THE ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER ASPARTAME.

1 WHEREAS, discovered in 1965, aspartame was first approved
2 in the United States in 1981 and is one of the most widely used
3 artificial sweeteners; and
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5 WHEREAS, when metabolized by the body, aspartame is broken
6 down into two common amino acids, aspartic acid and
7 phenylalanine, and a small amount of a third substance,
8 methanol; and
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10 WHEREAS, these three substances occur in similar or greater
11 amounts in common foods; and
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13 WHEREAS, aspartame continues to be the subject of strong
14 public controversy regarding its safety; and
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16 WHEREAS, some studies have recommended further
17 investigation into the possible connection between aspartame and
18 diseases such as brain tumors, brain lesions, and lymphoma; and
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20 WHEREAS, some human and animal studies have found adverse
21 effects and some have found no adverse effects; and
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23 WHEREAS, while there have been a number of studies on the
24 effects of aspartame on people, there is a great deal of
25 argument by both proponents and opponents on the methods used in
26 the testing and whether accurate representations of the
27 consequences of average consumption by people have been achieved
28 by these studies; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Internet has become a tool for many to spread
31 and promote the opinion they adhere to as fact whether it is



1 that aspartame is a neurotoxin derived from toxic sludge or it
2 is a harmless product enabling a healthy lifestyle; and
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4 WHEREAS, while many may find that the simple answer to the
5 problem is to not purchase or use any product containing
6 aspartame in it, there are those who maintain that some products
7 do not specifically list aspartame as an ingredient, rather it
8 is hidden under the label of "natural flavors"; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Director of
13 Health is requested to form a work group to explore the need to
14 ban or improve labeling for products containing the artificial
15 sweetener aspartame; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the members of the work group should
18 include:
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- 20 (1) One member from the House of Representatives appointed
21 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 23 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
24 the Senate;
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- 26 (3) The Director of Health or the director's designee;
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- 28 (4) The President of the Calorie Control Council or the
29 President's designee; and
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- 31 (5) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
32 American Beverage Association or a designee;
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- 34 (6) The President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic
35 Physicians or a designee;
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- 37 (7) The Founder of Mission Possible International or a
38 designee; and
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- 40 (8) Two consumers appointed by the Director of Health;
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42 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the work group is requested to
2 submit a report of its findings, as well as any suggested
3 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
8 President of the Calorie Control Council, President and Chief
9 Executive Officer of the American Beverage Association,
10 President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and
11 Founder of Mission Possible International.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 04 2008

