

---

---

## HOUSE 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  
4

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  
9

10          WHEREAS, these three substances occur in similar or greater  
11 amounts in common foods; and  
12

13          WHEREAS, aspartame continues to be the subject of strong  
14 public controversy regarding its safety; and  
15

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  
19

20          WHEREAS, some human and animal studies have found adverse  
21 effects and some have found no adverse effects; and  
22

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  
29

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  
32 that aspartame is a neurotoxin derived from toxic sludge or it  
33 is a harmless product enabling a healthy lifestyle; and  
34



1 WHEREAS, while many may find that the simple answer to the  
2 problem is to not purchase or use any product containing  
3 aspartame in it, there are those who maintain that some products  
4 do not specifically list aspartame as an ingredient, rather it  
5 is hidden under the label of "natural flavors"; now, therefore,  
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
9 Session of 2008, that the Director of Health is requested to  
10 form a work group to explore the need to ban or improve labeling  
11 for products containing the artificial sweetener aspartame; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the members of the work group should  
14 include:  
15

- 16 (1) One member from the House of Representatives appointed  
17 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
18
- 19 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
20 the Senate;  
21
- 22 (3) The Director of Health or the director's designee;  
23
- 24 (4) The President of the Calorie Control Council or the  
25 President's designee; and  
26
- 27 (5) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the  
28 American Beverage Association or a designee;  
29
- 30 (6) The President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic  
31 Physicians or a designee;  
32
- 33 (7) The Founder of Mission Possible International or a  
34 designee; and  
35
- 36 (8) Two consumers appointed by the Director of Health;  
37

38 and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the work group is requested to  
41 submit a report of its findings, as well as any suggested  
42 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to  
43 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and  
44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President  
3 of the Calorie Control Council, President and Chief Executive  
4 Officer of the American Beverage Association, President of the  
5 Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and Founder of  
6 Mission Possible International.

7  
8  
9

OFFERED BY:

Josh Green MD.

MAR 04 2008

