

MAR 13 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY OTHER STATE PROHIBITS OR REGULATES THE USE OF ASPARTAME AND REVIEW THE HISTORY OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S REGULATION OF ASPARTAME.

1           WHEREAS, aspartame was discovered in 1965, was first  
2 approved for use as a food additive in the United States in  
3 1981, and is one of the most widely used artificial sweeteners;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, when metabolized by the body, aspartame is broken  
7 down into two common amino acids, aspartic acid and  
8 phenylalanine, and a small amount of a third substance,  
9 methanol; and

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

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

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17           WHEREAS, some studies have recommended further  
18 investigation into the possible connection between aspartame and  
19 diseases such as brain tumors, brain lesions, and lymphoma; and

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

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24           WHEREAS, there is considerable dispute about the  
25 reliability of methods used to determine the effects of average  
26 consumption of aspartame by people and whether studies based  
27 upon the tests accurately represent the test results; and

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29           WHEREAS, the Internet has become a tool for many to spread  
30 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"; and

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10 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions, the state of New Mexico most  
11 recently and notably, have tried to prohibit importation of  
12 aspartame, to ban its use in food manufacturing, or to impose  
13 labeling requirements on foods containing it; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
18 Reference Bureau is requested to:

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20 (1) Review the history of the Food and Drug  
21 Administration's regulation of aspartame; and

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23 (2) Determine whether any other state prohibits or  
24 regulates the use of aspartame; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
27 Bureau is requested to provide a report to the Legislature  
28 regarding its review and determination no later than twenty days  
29 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
32 General and the Department of Health are requested to assist the  
33 Legislative Reference Bureau in this study; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
37 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Attorney General, and the  
38 Director of Health.

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41 OFFERED BY   
*Suzanne Chun*

