

JAN 28 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as
2 lupus, is an immune system disorder of unknown cause and in its
3 systemic form may affect the joints, skin, and one or more
4 internal organs, such as the kidney, heart, and brain; and
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6 WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening
7 disease in which there is always the potential threat of serious
8 illness and disability; and
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10 WHEREAS, while lupus can occur in men, ninety per cent of
11 the sufferers are women in their childbearing years,
12 particularly affecting Native Hawaiian women, Pacific Island
13 women, and women of Asian descent; and
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15 WHEREAS, ordinarily, the immune system protects against
16 infection by producing antibodies that successfully combat
17 foreign infectious agents, but in people with lupus, the immune
18 system produces antibodies that can harm the individual's own
19 body; and
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21 WHEREAS, people with lupus have many different symptoms,
22 but the most common are fatigue, muscle and joint pain, skin
23 disorders, and inflammation of internal organs, and inflammation
24 of the vascular and nervous systems; and
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26 WHEREAS, early detection and proper treatment is critical
27 to the quality of life and survival rate of lupus sufferers; and
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29 WHEREAS, researchers estimate that over 1,500,000 people in
30 the United States have been diagnosed with a form lupus or
31 related diseases and according to Lupus Hawaii, over ten
32 thousand people in Hawaii are affected by lupus; and
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1 WHEREAS, scientists in biology, biochemistry, immunology,
2 genetics, and other fields are seeking to understand the causes
3 of lupus and to develop better means of detection, treatment,
4 and prevention; and
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6 WHEREAS, to fight lupus, new research and new approaches to
7 diagnosis and treatment are needed and the suffering of lupus
8 victims can be alleviated through patient services and the
9 promotion of early detection of undiagnosed cases through lupus
10 awareness programs; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
15 proclaims the month of May of each year as "Lupus Awareness
16 Month" in Hawaii; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and to the
20 Director of Health.
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