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HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PRIORITIZE THE

CONTAINMENT AND CONTROL OF COVID-19 TO THOSE WITH A HIGH

PROBABILITY OF CONTRACTING AND DYING FROM THE VIRUS, SUCH

AS THE RESIDENTS OF CARE HOMES, NURSING HOMES, AND ADULT

FOSTER HOMES, THEIR CAREGIVERS, AND PEOPLE WITH KNOWN

COMORBID MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, "coronavirus", or COVID-19, has infected hundreds of thousands of people since January 2020, and continues to multiply not just in the virus's epicenter but spread in pandemic proportion globally, with cases reported in forty-nine nations; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern"; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Epidemiologist has declared that it is not a matter of "if" but rather "when" the virus will reach Hawaii, and the State must prepare for the impact of the virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a new disease and information about it is limited; however, the fatalities have been elderly individuals and individuals with comorbid medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, because the availability of the test kit for COVID-19 may be limited, priority should be given to those who need it the most; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Department of Health is requested to prioritize the containment and control of COVID-19 to those with a high probability of contracting and dying from the virus, such as

residents of care homes, nursing homes, and adult foster homes, their caregivers, and people with known comorbid medical conditions; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, and Director of Human Services.

9 FFERED BY: Rida Catenlla frakawa **10**

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