
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA JOHN A. BURNS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO CONDUCT A STUDY THAT INVESTIGATES THE
PREVALENCE OF THE RS-12252-C VARIATION OF THE IFITM3 GENE
AMONG HAWAII'S ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER RESIDENTS AND THE
SEVERITY OF VIRAL INFECTION COMPARED TO RESIDENTS OF OTHER
ETHNICITIES.

1 WHEREAS, in addition to factors such as nutrition,
2 underlying disease, and immunity to past infection, a person's
3 genetic predisposition can contribute to the severity of
4 infection that person experiences; and
5

6 WHEREAS, research shows that mutations to the IFITM3 gene,
7 such as the RS-12252-C variation, can lead to complications
8 during the course of certain infections, such as various forms
9 of influenza and other respiratory infections; and
10

11 WHEREAS, a study of the impacts of the 2009 H1N1 virus
12 found that sixty-nine percent of patients with severe H1N1
13 symptoms carried the RS-12252-C variation, while only twenty-
14 five percent of patients with mild symptoms carried the
15 variation; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the RS-12252-C variation occurs in approximately
18 twenty-five percent of persons of Chinese descent and forty-four
19 percent of persons of Japanese descent, but in only eight
20 percent of persons of European or sub-Saharan African descent;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared that the
24 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has disproportionately affected
25 the Asian and Pacific Islander population of the State,
26 according to Department of Health statistics; and



H.C.R. NO. 88

1 WHEREAS, despite the particular susceptibility of persons
2 of Asian descent to carrying the RS-12252-C variation and the
3 approximately thirty-eight percent of Hawaii residents who are
4 of Asian descent, which is more than any other State in the
5 country, no studies have been conducted regarding the prevalence
6 of the RS-12252-C variation of the IFITM3 gene among those
7 residents; and

8
9 WHEREAS, this lack of scientific study leaves the
10 Department of Health with no knowledge as to how this genetic
11 variation could affect Hawaii in the event of a public health
12 crisis; and

13
14 WHEREAS, data suggests that the RS-12252-C variation may
15 increase the likelihood of developing more serious complications
16 as a result of a COVID-19 infection; now, therefore,

17
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
21 John A. Burns School of Medicine is requested to conduct a study
22 that investigates the prevalence of the RS-12252-C variation of
23 the IFITM3 gene among Asian and Pacific Islander residents and
24 the severity of viral infection compared to residents of other
25 ethnicities; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should be conducted
28 on the deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, of those residents to
29 determine the severity of risk that the carrier of an RS-12252-C
30 variation will contract serious COVID-19 and other certain
31 dangerous influenza viral infections; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
34 John A. Burns School of Medicine is requested to submit a report
35 of its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days
36 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

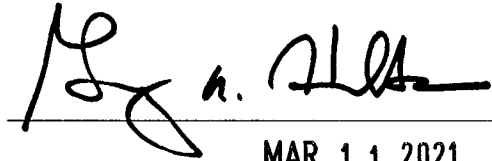
37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
39 requested to incorporate the research findings from the John A.
40 Burns School of Medicine regarding the RS-12252-C variation of
41 the IFITM3 gene into its public health and pandemic planning;
42 and



H.C.R. NO. 88

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
3 and Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
4 Medicine.
5
6
7

OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2021

