
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ONGOING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO
IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE VIRAL HEPATITIS
TYPES A, B, AND C IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver
2 caused by a viral infection; and
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4 WHEREAS, the most common forms of viral hepatitis in the
5 United States are hepatitis types A, B, and C; and
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7 WHEREAS, about sixty-three thousand people in Hawaii are
8 living with viral hepatitis types B or C, and many persons may
9 be unaware that they are infected; and
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11 WHEREAS, viral hepatitis types B and C have been linked to
12 cirrhosis and liver cancer, diseases that affect the State's
13 residents at disproportionately high rates; and
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15 WHEREAS, communities at higher risk for developing viral
16 hepatitis include people who are indigenous, African American,
17 incarcerated, veterans, experiencing homelessness, pregnant, or
18 members of the LGBTQ+ community; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State is currently engaged in proactive
21 measures to help eliminate viral hepatitis in underserved and
22 at-risk communities by expanding Med-QUEST to cover hepatitis C
23 medications; offering syringe service programs to reduce the
24 spread of hepatitis C among people who use injectable drugs;
25 identifying and supporting foreign-born women and families at
26 high risk of contracting hepatitis B; and ensuring that homeless
27 communities are immunized against hepatitis A; and
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29 WHEREAS, state agencies and private organizations are also
30 helping to reduce and eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and
31 C by offering vaccines, testing, education, training programs,
32 and care services; and



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2 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the United States Senators for
3 Hawaii, Lieutenant Governor, and Harm Reduction Services Branch
4 of the Department of Health issued "Hep Free 2030" a ten-year
5 statewide strategy to help eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B,
6 and C in Hawaii; and
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8 WHEREAS, the "Hep Free 2030" strategy emphasized the need
9 to integrate culturally appropriate services with a
10 comprehensive system of care and to promote the core values of
11 harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
15 needed to further implement the statewide strategy to eliminate
16 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; now, therefore,
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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, that the Legislature recognizes and supports ongoing
21 collaborative efforts by state agencies and private
22 organizations to implement the "Hep Free 2030" statewide
23 strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in
24 Hawaii; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Health,
27 Human Services, and Homelessness and the Senate Committee on
28 Health are requested to convene a joint informational briefing
29 after the completion of the Regular Session of 2021 and before
30 the commencement of the Regular Session of 2022 to assess the
31 progress and status of the "Hep Free 2030" statewide strategy
32 implementation; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Senators for
3 Hawaii; Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Chair of the House
4 Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness; Chair of
5 the Senate Committee on Health; Director of Health; Branch Chief
6 of the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Department of
7 Health; Executive Director of the Hawaii Health and Harm
8 Reduction Center; and Executive Director of Hep Free Hawaii.

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11 OFFERED BY: 

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