
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



1 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the United States Senators for
2 Hawaii, Lieutenant Governor, and Harm Reduction Services Branch
3 of the Department of Health issued "Hep Free 2030", a ten-year
4 statewide strategy to help eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B,
5 and C in Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, the "Hep Free 2030" strategy emphasized the need
8 to integrate culturally appropriate services with a
9 comprehensive system of care and promote the core values of harm
10 reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha; and
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12 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
13 needed to further implement the statewide strategy to eliminate
14 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2021, that this body recognizes and supports ongoing
19 collaborative efforts by state agencies and private
20 organizations to implement the "Hep Free 2030" statewide
21 strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in
22 Hawaii; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Health,
25 Human Services, and Homelessness and Senate Committee on Health
26 are requested to convene two joint informational briefings after
27 the completion of the Regular Session of 2021 and before the
28 commencement of the Regular Session of 2022 for the following
29 purposes:
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- 31 (1) To assess the progress and status of the "Hep Free
32 2030" statewide strategy implementation; and
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34 (2) To receive proposed legislation that the Executive
35 Director of Hep Free Hawaii is urged to submit for the
36 Regular Session of 2022; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Senators for
40 Hawaii; Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Chair of the House
41 Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness; Chair of
42 the Senate Committee on Health; Director of Health; Branch Chief
43 of the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Department of



- 1 Health; Executive Director of the Hawaii Health and Harm
- 2 Reduction Center; and Executive Director of Hep Free Hawaii.

