
HOUSE 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

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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

27
28 WHEREAS, despite the particular susceptibility of persons
29 of Asian descent to carrying the RS-12252-C variation and the



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

7 WHEREAS, this lack of scientific study leaves the
8 Department of Health with no knowledge as to how this genetic
9 variation could affect Hawaii in the event of a public health
10 crisis; and
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12 WHEREAS, data suggests that the RS-12252-C variation may
13 increase the likelihood of developing more serious complications
14 as a result of a COVID-19 infection; 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 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
19 Medicine is requested to conduct a study that investigates the
20 prevalence of the RS-12252-C variation of the IFITM3 gene among
21 Asian and Pacific Islander residents and the severity of viral
22 infection compared to residents of other ethnicities; and
23

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
31 John A. Burns School of Medicine is requested to submit a report
32 of its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days
33 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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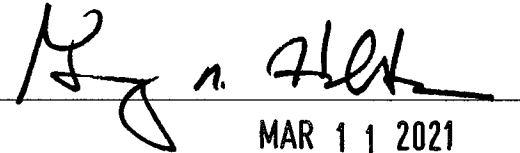
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
36 requested to incorporate the research findings from the John A.
37 Burns School of Medicine regarding the RS-12252-C variation of
38 the IFITM3 gene into its public health and pandemic planning;
39 and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Dean of
3 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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OFFERED BY:


MAR 11 2021

