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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT THE  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S UPDATED GUIDANCE, WHICH  
SHORTENS OR ELIMINATES THE DEFERRAL PERIOD FOR CERTAIN  
BLOOD DONORS.

1           WHEREAS, due to fears of the coronavirus disease 2019  
2 (COVID-19) pandemic, blood bank donations decreased  
3 substantially in 2021, resulting in an historic blood inventory  
4 shortage in the State; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii is the sole provider of  
7 blood to the eighteen civilian hospitals in the State and one on  
8 Guam; and

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10          WHEREAS, regular blood inventory maintenance requires one  
11 hundred and fifty blood donors every day; however, because of  
12 the State's blood shortage, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has not  
13 been able to adequately supply the State's hospitals, leaving  
14 them with between sixty and eighty percent of the normal supply;  
15 and

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17          WHEREAS, the blood supply shortage is a health crisis and  
18 poses a significant risk to those who suffer medical emergencies  
19 that require blood transfusions; and

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21          WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is  
22 the government agency that determines blood donor eligibility  
23 requirements; and

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25          WHEREAS, due to the shortage of blood donations nationally  
26 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA revised its blood donor  
27 eligibility guidance for several categories of blood donors,  
28 which shortened or eliminated completely the deferral period, or  
29 the amount of time these donors must wait before donating blood;  
30 and



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2 WHEREAS, for male donors who would have been deferred for  
3 having sex with another man, the FDA changed the recommended  
4 deferral period from twelve months to three months since the  
5 donor's last sexual encounter; and  
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7 WHEREAS, for female donors who would have been deferred for  
8 having sex with a man who had sex with another man, the FDA  
9 changed the recommended deferral period from twelve months to  
10 three months since the donor's last sexual encounter; and  
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12 WHEREAS, for those donors who would have been deferred for  
13 tattoos or piercings, the FDA changed the recommended deferral  
14 period from twelve months to three months from receiving the  
15 tattoo or piercing; and  
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17 WHEREAS, for those donors who would have been deferred for  
18 traveling to malaria-endemic areas (and are residents of malaria  
19 non-endemic countries), the FDA changed the recommended deferral  
20 period from twelve months to three months, or no deferral period  
21 in certain cases; and  
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23 WHEREAS, for those donors would have been deferred for  
24 spending time in certain European countries or on military bases  
25 in Europe who were previously considered to have been exposed to  
26 a potential risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease or  
27 Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the FDA eliminated its  
28 recommended deferrals; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the FDA's updated guidance relating to blood  
31 donation has been in place since at least August 2020; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii states on its website  
34 that it "strictly adheres to FDA regulations"; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has yet to adopt any of  
37 the FDA's updated guidance; now, therefore,  
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Blood Bank of  
42 Hawaii is requested to immediately adopt the Food and Drug



1 Administration's updated guidance, shortening or eliminating the  
2 deferral period for certain blood donors; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
6 and Chair of the Blood Bank of Hawaii.

