
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

5
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

9
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

16
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

20
21 WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is
22 the government agency that determines blood donor eligibility
23 requirements; and

24
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



1
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
6

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
11

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
16

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
22

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
29

30 WHEREAS, the FDA's updated guidance relating to blood
31 donation has been in place since at least August 2020; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii states on its website
34 that it "strictly adheres to FDA regulations"; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has yet to adopt any of
37 the FDA's updated guidance; now, therefore,
38

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
3

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.

