

MAR 08 2022

SENATE 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 been
13 forced to undersupply the State's hospitals, leaving them with
14 between sixty and eighty percent of the normal supply; and

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

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

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

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31 WHEREAS, for male donors who would have been deferred for
32 having sex with another man, the FDA changed the recommended
33 deferral period from twelve months to three months since the
34 donor's last sexual encounter; and



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

Michelle A. Kiani

