
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ONGOING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BY
STATE AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
"HEP FREE 2030" 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, viral hepatitis types B and C have been linked to
8 cirrhosis and liver cancer, diseases that affect the State's
9 residents at disproportionately high rates; and

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11 WHEREAS, recent data has shown higher rates of hepatitis B
12 deaths in Hawaii compared to the general United States, with
13 three times higher death rates in 2019 alone; and

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15 WHEREAS, recent data has also shown a twenty year lower
16 life expectancy among people living with hepatitis C in Hawaii
17 compared to the rest of the State's population; and

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19 WHEREAS, communities at higher risk for developing viral
20 hepatitis include people who are indigenous, African American,
21 incarcerated, veterans, experiencing homelessness, pregnant, or
22 members of the LGBTQ+ community; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State is currently engaged in proactive
25 measures to help eliminate viral hepatitis in underserved and
26 at-risk communities by expanding Med-QUEST to cover hepatitis C
27 medications; offering syringe service programs to reduce the
28 spread of hepatitis C among people who use injectable drugs;
29 identifying and supporting foreign-born women and families at



1 high risk of contracting hepatitis B; and ensuring that homeless
2 communities are immunized against hepatitis A; and

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4 WHEREAS, state agencies and private organizations are also
5 helping to reduce and eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and
6 C by offering vaccines, testing, education, training programs,
7 and care services; and

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9 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the United States Senators for
10 Hawaii, Lieutenant Governor, and Harm Reduction Services Branch
11 of the Department of Health issued "Hep Free 2030", a ten-year
12 statewide strategy to help eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B,
13 and C in Hawaii; and

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15 WHEREAS, the "Hep Free 2030" strategy emphasizes the need
16 to integrate culturally appropriate services with a
17 comprehensive system of care and promote the core values of harm
18 reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha; and

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20 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
21 needed to further implement the statewide strategy to eliminate
22 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that this body
27 recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative efforts by state
28 agencies and private organizations to implement the "Hep Free
29 2030" statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis types A,
30 B, and C in Hawaii; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the elimination of viral
33 hepatitis be a public health priority for the State; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
36 Standing Committee on Health and Homelessness and Senate
37 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services convene a joint
38 informational briefing after the completion of the Regular
39 Session of 2023 and before the commencement of the Regular
40 Session of 2024 to assess the progress and status of the "Hep
41 Free 2030" statewide strategy implementation and to determine
42 any recommended legislative action; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Director of Health, Branch Chief of the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Department of Health, and Co-Directors of Hep Free Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: *Anna A. Boloff*

MAR 10 2023

