

MAR 07 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF REMOVING THE DEFERRAL FOR INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED TO BE EXPOSED TO CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE AND VARIANT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE TO ASSIST WITH THE URGENT DEMAND FOR BLOOD IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing a historic blood
2 inventory shortage; and

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

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8 WHEREAS, regular blood inventory maintenance requires one
9 hundred fifty blood donors each day; and

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11 WHEREAS, however, because of the State's blood shortage,
12 the Blood Bank of Hawaii has not been able to adequately supply
13 the State's hospitals, leaving them with only between sixty and
14 eighty percent of the normal supply; and

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16 WHEREAS, the blood supply shortage constitutes a health
17 crisis that poses a significant risk to those who may suffer
18 medical emergencies and 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, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, also known as Classic
25 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, is a rare, rapidly progressive,
26 degenerative brain disorder that occurs through inherited cases
27 or as a sporadic disease with spontaneous transformation of
28 normal prion proteins into abnormal prion proteins; and

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1 WHEREAS, Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, also known as
2 vCJD or "Mad Cow" disease, is the human counterpart to bovine
3 spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), an incurable, fatal
4 neurogenerative disease in cattle, and is believed to be spread
5 through contaminated beef or blood products; and
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7 WHEREAS, in August 2020, the FDA lifted the Creutzfeldt-
8 Jakob Disease and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease travel
9 deferral for a majority of affected European countries; and
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11 WHEREAS, in May 2022, the FDA lifted the Creutzfeldt-Jakob
12 Disease and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease blood donor ban
13 for individuals who spent time in the United Kingdom, France,
14 and Ireland from 1980 to 2001; and
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16 WHEREAS, the reversal of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and
17 Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease deferment may potentially
18 impact thousands of individuals in Hawaii who were previously
19 ineligible to donate blood, including those in the military who
20 served abroad and individuals who previously lived in affected
21 European countries; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has yet to adopt any of
24 the FDA's updated guidance for donors who have been deferred for
25 spending time in certain European countries who were considered
26 to have been exposed to a potential risk of transmission of
27 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Blood Bank of
32 Hawaii is requested to expedite the process of removing the
33 deferral on individuals previously considered to be exposed to
34 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
35 to assist with the urgent demand for blood donations in the
36 State; and
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S.C.R. NO. 42

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
3 and Chair of the Blood Bank of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: Michelle D. Sidani

