

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ONGOING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO
IMPLEMENT A 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 preventable, treatable 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 Hawaii
9 residents at disproportionately high rates; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State's hepatitis B mortality rate is higher
12 than that of the nationwide average and was nearly triple the
13 nationwide average in 2019; and
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15 WHEREAS, the life expectancy for Hawaii residents living
16 with hepatitis C is twenty years less than that of residents
17 living without hepatitis C; and
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19 WHEREAS, certain communities are at higher risk for
20 developing viral hepatitis, including indigenous, Asian American
21 and Pacific Islander, incarcerated, veteran, homeless, pregnant,
22 and LGBTQ+ communities; and
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24 WHEREAS, the State is engaged in proactive measures to help
25 eliminate viral hepatitis in underserved and at-risk communities
26 by expanding Med-QUEST to cover hepatitis C medications;
27 offering syringe service programs to reduce the spread of
28 hepatitis C among people who inject drugs; identifying and
29 supporting foreign-born women and families at high risk of
30 contracting hepatitis B; and ensuring that homeless communities
31 are immunized against hepatitis A; and
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1 WHEREAS, state agencies and private organizations are also
2 helping to reduce and eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and
3 C by offering vaccines, testing, education, training programs,
4 and care services; and

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6 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Hep Free Hawaii, a coalition
7 dedicated to increasing viral hepatitis awareness, issued "Hep
8 Free 2030: The Hawaii Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030"
9 (Hep Free 2030), a ten-year statewide strategy to help eliminate
10 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hep Free 2030 identifies awareness and education,
13 access to services, advocacy at all levels, equity, and data
14 driven decision-making as priorities to eliminating viral
15 hepatitis in Hawaii by 2030; and

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17 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
18 needed to further implement Hep Free 2030; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes
23 and supports ongoing collaborative efforts by state agencies and
24 private organizations to implement Hep Free 2030: The Hawaii
25 Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate and the House of
28 Representatives acknowledge viral hepatitis to be a public
29 health priority of the State; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Standing Committee
32 on Health and Human Services and House Standing Committee on
33 Health and Homelessness are requested to convene a joint
34 informational briefing following the completion of the Regular
35 Session of 2023 and prior to the commencement of the Regular
36 Session of 2024 to assess the progress and status of
37 implementing Hep Free 2030 and determine any recommended future
38 legislative action; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
42 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of the

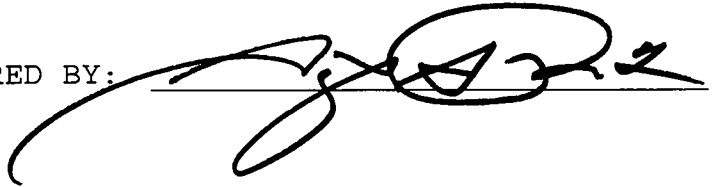


S.C.R. NO. 86

1 Senate Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Chair of
2 the House Standing Committee on Health and Homelessness, and Co-
3 Directors of Hep Free Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.