

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that only thirty-eight  
2 per cent of the United States population is eligible to give  
3 blood. In order to help increase the number of eligible donors,  
4 foster a commitment to blood donation, and enhance our ability  
5 to meet the growing demand for blood, individuals who have  
6 attained the age of sixteen should be eligible to donate blood  
7 voluntarily with parental consent.

8           Twenty-three states have passed legislation or adopted  
9 variances recognizing sixteen year olds as eligible voluntary  
10 blood donors with parental consent. Two states also allow  
11 donations by sixteen year olds without parental consent.  
12 Wisconsin passed legislation, which took effect on March 14,  
13 2008, resulting in more than one thousand three hundred  
14 donations to the Red Cross to date from sixteen year old blood  
15 donors. Approximately twenty per cent of blood donations made  
16 to the mainland Red Cross come from high school and college  
17 blood drives.



1           The purpose of this Act is to lower the minimum age  
2 requirement for blood donation to sixteen years of age, provided  
3 that parental consent shall be required.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

7           "§321-        Blood donations; age of donor. (a) Any person  
8 eighteen years of age or older may donate blood in any voluntary  
9 and noncompensatory blood program without the necessity of  
10 obtaining parental permission or authorization.

11           (b) Any person who is sixteen years of age or older but  
12 who has not attained the age of eighteen may donate blood in a  
13 voluntary and noncompensatory blood program if the person  
14 obtains written permission from the person's parent or  
15 guardian."

16           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Espero  
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**Report Title:**

Blood Donation; Age Requirement; Minor

**Description:**

Lowers the minimum age requirement for blood donation to sixteen years old with parental consent.

