
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF THE LUPUS AWARENESS TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, lupus is an urgent national health issue; and

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3 WHEREAS, lupus results from an unbalanced immune system and
4 can become destructive to any organ in the body; and

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6 WHEREAS, lupus is unpredictable and potentially fatal, yet
7 no satisfactory treatment exists; and

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9 WHEREAS, its health consequences include disfiguring
10 rashes, scarring, disabling arthritis, heart attacks, strokes,
11 seizures, and organ failure; and

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13 WHEREAS, misdiagnosis of lupus commonly occurs, resulting
14 in needless suffering, denial of health or life insurance, and
15 higher premiums for health insurance; and

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17 WHEREAS, national data indicate that more than 1,500,000
18 Americans suffer from lupus and, according to Lupus Hawaii, over
19 10,000 people in Hawaii are affected by lupus; and

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21 WHEREAS, although recommendations have been made, no new
22 drugs to specifically to treat lupus have been approved by the
23 Food and Drug Administration in the last fifty years; and

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25 WHEREAS, while current treatments for the disease may be
26 effective, they have side effects that often prove worse than
27 the disease itself; and

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29 WHEREAS, annually, lupus treatment costs the nation in
30 excess of \$31,400,000,000; now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2011, that the Department of Health is requested to create
35 the Lupus Awareness Task Force to promote public and health
36 professional education and awareness of lupus among public
37 health and human services officials, physicians, nurses, and



1 other health care providers and increase knowledge concerning
2 the causes and consequences of lupus, the importance of early
3 diagnosis and appropriate management, and effective treatment
4 and management strategies; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force
7 develop a comprehensive plan to improve lupus education and
8 awareness in the State; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan focus on
11 minority populations and at-risk communities to raise public
12 awareness, educate consumers, and educate and train health
13 professionals, human service providers, and other audiences; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force
16 consider at minimum the following activities in the
17 comprehensive plan:

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19 (1) Distributing medically-sound health information
20 produced by national organizations and government
21 agencies that deal with lupus, such as the National
22 Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control
23 and Prevention, the Arthritis Foundation, the American
24 College of Rheumatology, the Lupus Foundation, and the
25 Social Security Administration, through county health
26 departments, physicians and other health
27 professionals, hospitals, health insurers and health
28 maintenance organizations, women's health programs,
29 and nonprofit and community-based organizations;
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31 (2) Developing educational materials for health
32 professionals that identify the latest scientific and
33 medical information and clinical applications;
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35 (3) Increasing knowledge among physicians, nurses, and
36 health and human services professionals about the
37 importance of lupus diagnosis, treatment, and
38 rehabilitation;
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40 (4) Supporting continuing medical education programs in
41 the State by providing up-to-date information about
42 lupus and lupus research;
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1 (5) Providing the latest information on clinical advances
 2 through statewide workshops and seminars to promote
 3 in-depth professional development among health care
 4 providers regarding the care and management of lupus
 5 patients; and
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7 (6) Developing, maintaining, and disseminating a directory
 8 of lupus-related services and lupus health care
 9 specialist providers who diagnose and treat lupus; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force
 12 be composed of seven members to be designated by the Director of
 13 Health and that the members have lupus-related experience and
 14 include representatives from relevant state agencies; scientists
 15 with experience in lupus research; health and medical
 16 professionals with experience treating lupus patients;
 17 representatives from non-profit women's and health
 18 organizations, including Lupus Hawaii; and individuals with
 19 lupus; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Lupus
 22 Awareness Task Force designate a chair from among its members
 23 and serve without compensation but be reimbursed for travel
 24 expenses necessary to carry out their duties; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
 27 requested to submit the Lupus Awareness Task Force's
 28 comprehensive plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 29 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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