

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE 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 Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
34 that the Department of Health is requested to create the Lupus  
35 Awareness Task Force to promote public and health professional  
36 education and awareness of lupus among public health and human  
37 services officials, physicians, nurses, and other health care



1 providers and increase knowledge concerning the causes and  
2 consequences of lupus, the importance of early diagnosis and  
3 appropriate management, and effective treatment and management  
4 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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(5) Providing the latest information on clinical advances through statewide workshops and seminars to promote in-depth professional development among health care providers regarding the care and management of lupus patients; and

(6) Developing, maintaining, and disseminating a directory of lupus-related services and lupus health care specialist providers who diagnose and treat lupus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force be composed of seven members to be designated by the Director of Health and that the members have lupus-related experience and include representatives from relevant state agencies; scientists with experience in lupus research; health and medical professionals with experience treating lupus patients; representatives from non-profit women's and health organizations, including Lupus Hawaii; and individuals with lupus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Lupus Awareness Task Force designate a chair from among its members and serve without compensation but be reimbursed for travel expenses necessary to carry out their duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is requested to submit the Lupus Awareness Task Force's comprehensive plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: John M  
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