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# HOUSE CONCURRENT 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, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is



1 requested to create the Lupus Awareness Task Force to promote  
2 public and health professional education and awareness of lupus  
3 among public health and human services officials, physicians,  
4 nurses, and other health care providers and increase knowledge  
5 concerning the causes and consequences of lupus, the importance  
6 of early diagnosis and appropriate management, and effective  
7 treatment and management strategies; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force  
10 develop a comprehensive plan to improve lupus education and  
11 awareness in the State; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan focus on  
14 minority populations and at-risk communities to raise public  
15 awareness, educate consumers, and educate and train health  
16 professionals, human service providers, and other audiences; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force  
19 consider at minimum the following activities in the  
20 comprehensive plan:  
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- 22 (1) Distributing medically-sound health information  
23 produced by national organizations and government  
24 agencies that deal with lupus, such as the National  
25 Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control  
26 and Prevention, the Arthritis Foundation, the American  
27 College of Rheumatology, the Lupus Foundation, and the  
28 Social Security Administration, through county health  
29 departments, physicians and other health  
30 professionals, hospitals, health insurers and health  
31 maintenance organizations, women's health programs,  
32 and nonprofit and community-based organizations;  
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- 34 (2) Developing educational materials for health  
35 professionals that identify the latest scientific and  
36 medical information and clinical applications;  
37
- 38 (3) Increasing knowledge among physicians, nurses, and  
39 health and human services professionals about the  
40 importance of lupus diagnosis, treatment, and  
41 rehabilitation;  
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1 (4) Supporting continuing medical education programs in  
2 the State by providing up-to-date information about  
3 lupus and lupus research;  
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5 (5) Providing the latest information on clinical advances  
6 through statewide workshops and seminars to promote  
7 in-depth professional development among health care  
8 providers regarding the care and management of lupus  
9 patients; and  
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11 (6) Developing, maintaining, and disseminating a directory  
12 of lupus-related services and lupus health care  
13 specialist providers who diagnose and treat lupus; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lupus Awareness Task Force  
16 be composed of seven members to be designated by the Director of  
17 Health and that the members have lupus-related experience and  
18 include representatives from relevant state agencies; scientists  
19 with experience in lupus research; health and medical  
20 professionals with experience treating lupus patients;  
21 representatives from non-profit women's and health  
22 organizations, including Lupus Hawaii; and individuals with  
23 lupus; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Lupus  
26 Awareness Task Force designate a chair from among its members  
27 and serve without compensation but be reimbursed for travel  
28 expenses necessary to carry out their duties; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
31 requested to submit the Lupus Awareness Task Force's  
32 comprehensive plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
33 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and  
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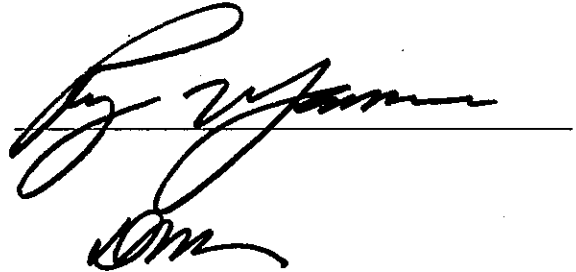


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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:



*Alla A. Beletti*  
*Linda Ichizawa*  
*Maif B. Lee*  
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MAR 16 2011

