

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF THE LUPUS AWARENESS TASK FORCE.

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

2
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, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



1 Health is requested to create the Lupus Awareness Task Force to
2 promote public and health professional education and awareness
3 of lupus among public health and human services officials,
4 physicians, nurses, and other health care providers and increase
5 knowledge concerning the causes and consequences of lupus, the
6 importance of early diagnosis and appropriate management, and
7 effective 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
17

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

OFFERED BY:

John

Randy H. Bell

Shiranne Chun Oakland

Will Eyer

