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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH  
IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as  
2 lupus, is an immune system disorder of unknown cause and in its  
3 systemic form may affect the joints, skin, and one or more  
4 internal organs, such as the kidney, heart, and brain; and  
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6           WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening  
7 disease in which there is always the potential threat of serious  
8 illness and disability; and  
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10           WHEREAS, while lupus can occur in men, ninety percent of  
11 the sufferers are women in their childbearing years,  
12 particularly affecting native Hawaiian women, Pacific Island  
13 women, and women of Asian descent; and  
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15           WHEREAS, ordinarily, the immune system protects against  
16 infection by producing antibodies that successfully combat  
17 foreign infectious agents, but in people with lupus, the immune  
18 system produces antibodies that can harm the individual's own  
19 body; and  
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21           WHEREAS, people with lupus have many different symptoms,  
22 but the most common are fatigue, muscle and joint pain, skin  
23 disorders, and inflammation of internal organs or the vascular  
24 and nervous systems; and  
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26           WHEREAS, early detection and proper treatment are critical  
27 to the quality of life and survival rate of lupus sufferers; and  
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29           WHEREAS, researchers estimate that over 1,500,000 people in  
30 the United States have been diagnosed with a form of lupus or  
31 related disease and according to Lupus Hawaii, over 10,000  
32 people in Hawaii are affected by lupus; and



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WHEREAS, scientists in biology, biochemistry, immunology, genetics, and other fields are seeking to understand the causes of lupus and to develop better means of detection, treatment, and prevention; and

WHEREAS, new research and new approaches to diagnosis and treatment are needed to fight lupus, and the suffering of lupus victims can be alleviated through patient services and the promotion of early detection of undiagnosed cases through lupus awareness programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature proclaim the month of May of each year as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of Health.