
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENDORSE THE "SCREEN AT 23"
CAMPAIGN THAT SCREENS ADULT ASIAN AMERICANS FOR TYPE 2
DIABETES AT A BODY MASS INDEX OF 23.

1 WHEREAS, approximately 130,000 people, or 9.1 percent of
2 the population, in Hawaii have diabetes, 442,000 or 30.9 percent
3 have pre-diabetes, and residents of Asian American heritage
4 comprise approximately 56.2 percent of the population of Hawaii;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among
8 Asian Americans; and

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10 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are 30 percent more likely to have
11 diabetes than White Americans and are also at greater risk of
12 developing pre-diabetes, diabetes, and associated risks at a
13 lower body mass index than White, Hispanic, Black, or Native
14 Americans; and

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16 WHEREAS, Asian Americans face a health care disparity in
17 type 2 diabetes detection and diagnosis, as the current
18 guidelines for screening Asian Americans at a body mass index of
19 25 not only miss 32 percent of diabetes diagnoses in Hawaii, but
20 also underestimate the prevalence of pre-diabetes among Asian
21 Americans; and

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23 WHEREAS, two out of three persons with type 2 diabetes die
24 from heart attack or stroke, and adults with diabetes are at
25 risk for developing end stage renal disease and kidney failure,
26 blindness, and lower limb loss; and

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28 WHEREAS, the per capita health care cost of diabetes in the
29 State is \$14,377 per year, while the annual cost for diabetes in
30 the State is \$1,500,000,000 in medical costs and \$400,000,000 in
31 indirect costs and productivity loss; and
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1 WHEREAS, the United States Preventative Services Task Force
2 recommends earlier screening for persons who are members of
3 certain ethnic groups, such as African Americans, American
4 Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos,
5 or Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, as they may be at
6 increased risk for diabetes at a younger age or at a lower body
7 mass index; and

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9 WHEREAS, early detection and treatment can mitigate
10 diabetes-related complications, risks, and costs; and

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12 WHEREAS, interventions focusing on nutrition, physical
13 activity, and healthy weight loss have been shown to reverse
14 pre-diabetes, improve glucose function in people with diabetes,
15 and reduce the need for multiple medications; and

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17 WHEREAS, screening Asian American patients at a body mass
18 index of 23 instead of 25 would unmask thousands of new diabetes
19 cases and more than three times that amount of new pre-diabetes
20 cases in the State, thereby initiating treatment or early
21 interventions to reduce negative co-morbidities like heart
22 diseases, kidney diseases, and limb amputation; and

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24 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health recently found
25 that more than half of Asian Americans with diabetes are
26 undiagnosed, and community based participatory research and
27 studies on Asian American subpopulations have shown that Asian
28 Americans develop diabetes at a lower body mass index; and

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30 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recommends screening
31 Asian patients at a lower body mass index than non-Hispanic
32 Whites, and the 2015 official guidelines of the American
33 Diabetes Association recommend that Asian Americans should be
34 tested for type 2 diabetes at a body mass index of 23; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific
37 Islander Diabetes Coalition has coordinated the "Asian BMI"
38 efforts of over 15 national and regional organizations,
39 culminating in the launch of the "Screen at 23" campaign; and

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41 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the opportunity to be one of the first
42 states to formally recognize and recommend screening adult Asian



1 Americans for type 2 diabetes at a body mass index of 23,
2 enabling thousands of individuals to get the early care and
3 treatment needed to live healthier lives; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
7 that the Department of Health is urged to endorse the "Screen at
8 23" campaign's efforts to increase awareness of diabetes among
9 Asian American communities and to eliminate disparities; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 also urged to encourage all public and private health care
13 providers and facilities to participate in these efforts; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
17 Health.

